JETS COMICS

# 愛人 [AI-REN] 3

田中ユタカ
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愛人 [AI-REN] 3
田中ユタカ

白泉社
353

# AGH-RMS

## Artificial Genes Human Regenerated for Mental Support

*DESIGN CONCEPT: YUTAKA TANAKA*
*DESIGN WORKS: PRIGRAPHICS*

JETS COMICS

# 哀 [AI-REN] 3

田中ユタカ
Yutaka Tanaka

JETS COMICS

# 愛人

## [AI-REN]

3

# 愛人［AI-REN］用語解説

## 「他者」

本来的には免疫学的な言葉として登場してくる。生まれて間もない頃「事故」によって身体の半分を失ったイクルに、何者かが移植したもの。これによってイクルは一命を取りとめたのだが、「他者」はイクルと同化も融合もすることは無く、イクル本来の身体と絶えず激しく相克し続けている。イクルの身体の半分は「他者」で出来上がっているが、イクルは「他者」によって生きていられるのであるが、同時に自分を生かしている「他者」によって死ななければならなくなっている。

## 南半球災害

連日TVのニュースで報道され続けている大災害（のようだ）。地球的規模で起った未曾有の超大型の自然災害らしく、そのために世界全体が大変な政情不安に陥っているようだ。ほとんど人類の危機とも言っていい大事件だと思われるが、イクル君たちはあまり熱心にニュースを見てくれないので具体的なことは何も描かれていない。

## 余命200年

人類全体が後200年程で滅んでしまうというもの。まるで一般常識のように語られるが、そのシリアス度は各々の持っている情報の質と量によってかなり違う。「大予言」的なものから相当シビアなものまで。

また、作中では人類は自然な性交によって生殖を行う能力をすでに無くしてしまったとされている。性欲そのものさえかなり希薄になってしまっているようであり、セックスによって愛し合うということが忘れ去られて久しい世界となっている。

## 国連

「国際連合」の略称。ただし今日のものとはまったくの別組織。本部は南極・地球港にある。

作中の「国」という概念は現在のものとは大きく違う。今日的な意味での国家はかなり以前に機能しなくなっている。国連に参加している「国」の中には「国土」を持たないものも多い。国民さえ存在するのかどうか疑わしいものもある。

作中に登場する「アフリカ」や「中国」などの言葉も現在のものとは人種的、地理的、歴史的にはほぼ無関係。いわば勝手に名乗っているだけの集団と考えられる。

「国連」はしばしば冗談の種にさえされるほどの懐古趣味的なネーミング。

## カマロ・カレルレン

国連事務総長。国連特別代表団としてキリトに接見した人物。後に手記を書いている。

## 『愛人』（ai-ren）

元々は中国語で恋人・配偶者を指す言葉。何らかの理由で社会的に存在を許されない人造遺伝子人間を凍結し、元の人格を封印することによって「愛人」として再生させる。

再生時間は長くても10か月くらいと言われている。

## AGH-RMS

"Artificial Genes Human Regenerated for Mental Support"「精神的援助用再生人造遺伝子人間」。「愛人」の正式な名称。長くて言いにくいのであまり使われることのないお役所言葉。

## スイックス（sixes）

元々はアメリカのSF作家フィリップ・K・ディックの小説に登場する言葉で、小説中の遺伝子改良エリートたちがそう呼ばれている。「愛人［AI-REN］」でも「人間の最終完成形態」と言われるほどのある特定の遺伝子改良人間の種類を呼ぶ言葉として使われている。

外見的特長は真っ白な髪と真っ白な肌、東洋的な美貌。不死身に近い生命力を持ってはいるが、生殖能力は完全に無く、青年期からは身体の絶えざる自己崩壊に晒されることになる。ナギ ハルカはスイックス。

黒い肌に金髪という外見（つまり遺伝子改良種）から、生命工学の発達した時代でのかなりのエリート階級の出自であると思われる。

「国連」と同じく「国連事務総長」も懐古趣味的なネーミング。現在のものとは役割、政治的権限なども大きく違う。

## ソン・ソンイル、マーク・ラインバーガー

カレルレンと共に国連特別代表団としてキリトに接見した国連高官。黒髪がソン、メガネをかけているのがマーク。

## 地球港（アース・ポート）

南極にある巨大な港、およびその一帯。国連本部施設がある。地球の頂上の街。

HITO出現以来、沖合いには難民を主とした人々が百万人以上押し寄せている。

## 種の寿命

人類という種そのものの寿命。その終わりが差し迫ったものであるという考え方。

## HITO

第2巻参照のこと。

## キリト

HITOのリーダーと思われる人物。外見はハルカと同じスイックスの特徴を持つ。

カレルレン曰く「神のパロディ」。

## 竜

HITOが乗って来たとされる巨大な竜。

## ナギ

ハルカの「母親」。生命科学者。スイックスの生みの親。TVの伝記番組に取り上げられたりするような人物らしい。

「人類の母」などというキャッチ・コピーが流布しているところから、人類全体に対して何がしかの大きな貢献をしたようだ。人類全体に対して何がしか現在は要介護の状態でホームにいる。

彼女の研究機関「ナギ」は、その全盛期には各方面へ政治的・経済的にかなりの影響力を誇っていたようだ。

## ホーム

ハルカの施設。遺伝子操作の失敗や何らかの理由で不要とされた者たちが暮らしている。

外観はメタリックな銀色のドーム。元は「ナギ」の宇宙船（スペース・コロニー？）だったもの。

メイホアとその旦那、ダイチ等大勢の子供たち、元宇宙戦用の兵士、ナギ、および職員たちがいる。

## ヒルコ

ホーム内部の草原にたくさんある繭のようなカプセルの中にいる者たち。

兵士曰く「種の寿命にさえ打ち勝つような新しい人間を作り出そうとしてたんだ…その残骸だ」

## 研究所（ラボ）

イクルが育った施設。何の研究をしてる所なのかは不明。

ハルカは家庭教師役として乗り込みイクルと出会った。

周りにはやたらとひまわりが咲いている。

ちなみに作中で呼ばれることはないが、所長の名前はソガベと言うらしい。（1巻#1でイクルに死を宣告するメガネの男。#6のネームプレート参照）

## 市役所

地下の墓場のような場所で愛人［AI-REN］にするための人造遺伝子人間たちが凍結されている。

ここの担当は「ミヤザキさん」。人のよさそうなおじさんで、ハルカとも知り合い。しかし「愛人［AI-REN］」関係は率直に言って窓際の部署である。

## 長生きのトマト

イクルの家の庭に植えられているトマト。食べると長生きの出来るトマトということではない。ネーミングの由来は第2巻を参照のこと。

## 「事故」

生まれたばかりのイクルが遭遇した事故。スペースコロニーが爆発したのか？

イクルの両親もこの時亡くなっている。遺品はイクルたちの部屋のクロゼットの中の焦げた箱。

## 毒の雨

有害物質を含んだ降雨。この時代にはしばしば降るらしい。

YEAH, ALL THIS IS EXPLAINED IN A BIT

# 愛人 [AI-REN] 3

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JETS COMICS



この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

## Some notes about this release...

Yes, this chapter was already released. No, there is no new plot-changing information revealed in this re-edit. The only difference between this and the previous release is, well, image quality. Sadly, for the original release, our raws left something to be desired, being in rather low resolution.

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# 愛人 [AI-REN]

16. Secret

CHIRP

CHIRP

EIEE

EIEE

IT'S DANGEROUS, LET'S GET A LONGER STICK...

JUST A LITTLE MORE...

ACK!
WHOA!
GROWL

<WHOOSH>

I CAUGHT IT! ♡

DOINK

OUCH

I CAUGHT IT!

MY LIFE WITH A WAS LIKE

WHERE TIME CEASED TO FLOW

LIVING IN A PARADISE

KIYAA!

SPLASH SPLASH

TAKE THAT!

I HOPED THAT...

IT WOULD LAST FOREVER...

TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!...

I WAS READY TO GIVE UP MY LIFE...

ARE YOU HURT?

!

Al...

.....

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU WERE WATCHING TV...

SLIDE

HUH?

WHAT KIND OF ILLNESS IS IT?

ARE YOU OKAY?

IKURU ...

I WAS ASKING IF YOU WERE HURT..?

# 愛人(AI-REN)②

IT'S ONLY TAKEN BY THOSE IN THE TERMINAL PHASE...

THAT MEDI-CINE...

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL...

LIAR.

YOU TAKE MEDICINE EVERY DAY...

WHY?

AND LATELY YOU'VE BEEN TAKING IT SECRETLY.

IT'S THE SAME AS AI TAKING MEDICINE WHEN SHE HAS A COLD...

IT'S NOTHING ...

THE LAST RESORT FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN NO LONGER STAND THE PAIN...

*DID SHE LOOK IT UP HERSELF..?*

AH!

GULP

IKURU...

*THE MEDICINE I TAKE ISN'T PUBLICLY AVAILABLE... ALL IT HAS IS A TECHNICAL NAME AND SOME CODE NUMBERS...*

*I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO WAY SHE WOULD KNOW. BUT AI...*

IKURU ...

THEN-

SPLASH

HMM?

SMILE

GULF

IKURU! IKURU!

ARE YOU HURT SOME-WHERE?

TIRED? ARE YOU TIRED?

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M FINE... DON'T WORRY ...

AI IS MIS-TAKEN...

SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT...

SOME-THING...

IKURU ...

NO...

AI,

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO KEEP A SECRET...

...YOU DON'T WANT ME TO HEAR?

AI...

...DOESN'T SMILE ANYMORE...

HM

TAP

CHIRP

ROLL-

ROLL-

FLAP

FLAP

I COULDN'T...

I SAW SOMEONE ENGULFED BY SADNESS

...KEEP YOU SMILING...

PLOINK

IKURU

HUFF PUFF

KURU ...

THERE IS...

...SOMETHING THAT AI KEPT SECRET FROM IKURU AS WELL...

AI?!

REALLY LIKES HIM..!

AI REALLY LIKES IKURU!

BUT AI WILL TELL IKURU...

AI REALLY WANTED TO KEEP IT A SECRET...

BUT...

SHE WANTS HIM TO SAY HE WANTS TO BE WITH HER...

AI WANTS IKURU TO TELL HER HE LIKES HER...

AND WANTS TO BE WITH HIM, DAY AFTER DAY...

AI LIKES BEING WITH IKURU...

IKURU...

AI WILL NO LONGER BE AI...

BUT...

SOON, THE AI THAT IKURU LIKES WILL DISAPPEAR...

THAT IS AI'S SECRET...

AI IS...

AN ORPHAN IN THIS WORLD...

PLOINK

I'M SORRY.

ECHO

Al...

I HAVE NO HOPE OF RECOVERY...

IT'S JUST AS AI SAID...

AH...

THIS IS NO PARADISE...

!!

BUT...

WHOA!

SPLASH

IKURU...

I...

PFFFT!

BUT WE ARE LAUGHING...

PFF-

Confused~

dazed

HAHAH AHA— HAHA!

?

HAND!

?

?

LIKE THIS...

THEN LIKE THIS...

DONE!

PINKY SWEAR! ♡

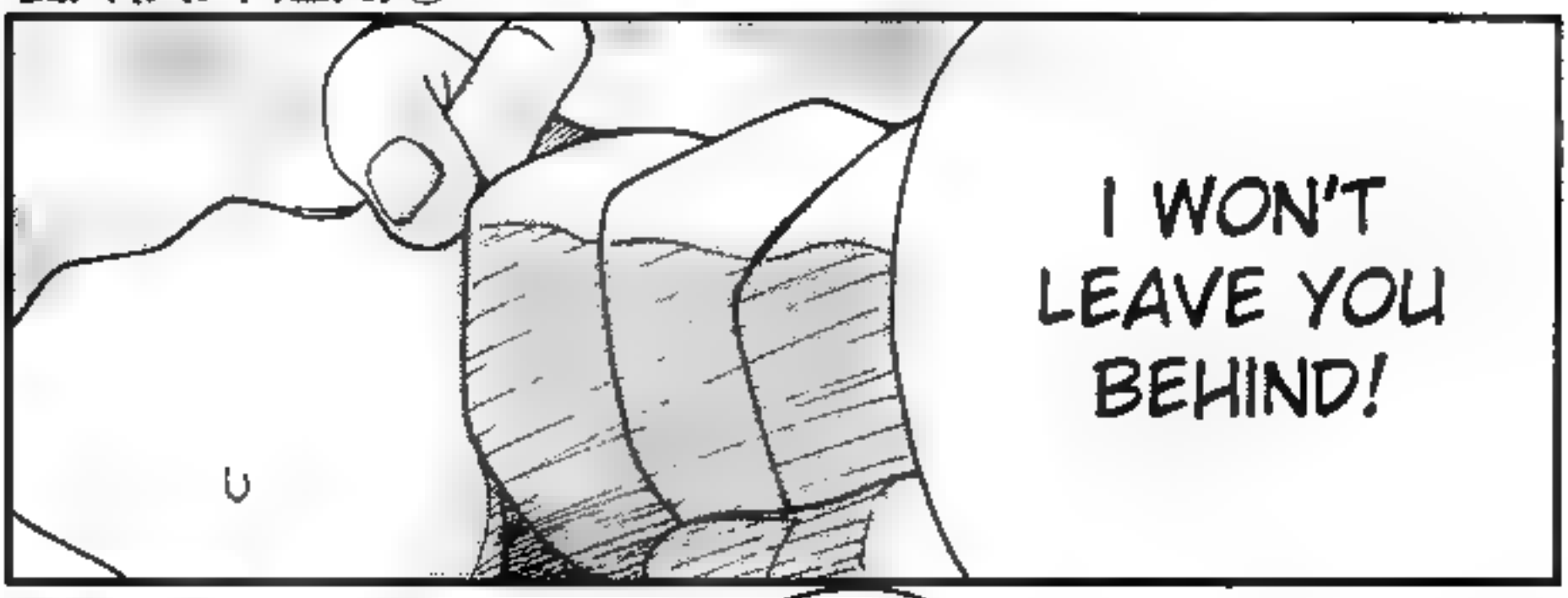
I AM STRONG!

I AM INVINCIBLE!

I AM YOUR ~AI-REN~

I WON'T DIE...

*AI-REN = LOVER


I WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND!

MM...
PROMISE!

HUG-
AI...

OK!
SQUEEZE

Al,

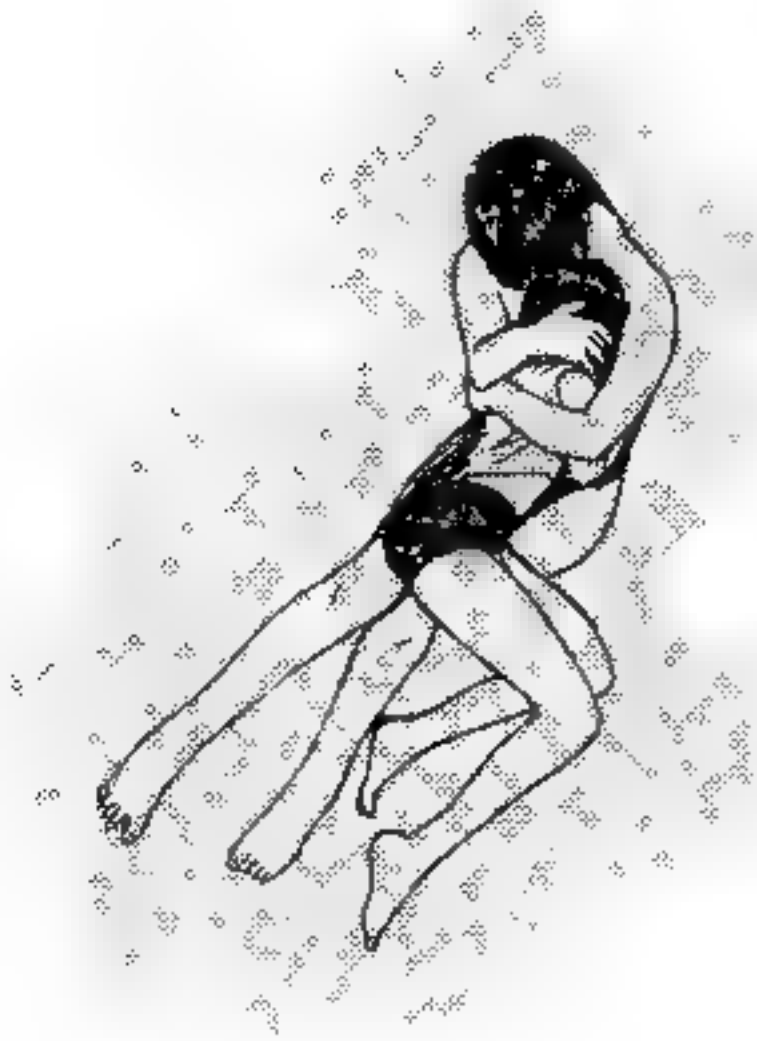
IT'S ALRIGHT,

I'M HERE...

I'M HERE WITH YOU...

IN THIS WORLD, YOU ARE...

NEVER ALONE!



MM...♡

IKURU~♡
IKURU~♡
HYA!

ACK!
POW!
YAH!

WAAH!
STOP!
<TAP TAP TAP>

IKURU-♡
AI SMILED VIVIDLY...
SHE SMILED...

<WHOOSH>
IKURU
AI

<WHOOSH>

CRCK-

IKU-
RU-

IKURU...

<HSOOHM>

IKURU...

<WHOOSH>

[ #16 -----End ]

Ok  So when I got assigned this project  I was like "b.eh  ai ren' I don t even read that  I m g.ad I did get assigned it tho  It s never a good idea to edit something u don t read  so I decided I should go back and read up on it  wow  I never knew what I was missing  Anyways  after a looooong wait here s chap 16  More .s on the way I prom.se  D

p00k.e

This is my second translation title.  p00kie helped me to make it sounds more natural. However, if it still feels awkward, please don't lynch us... I'll try harder.  As for the chapter, it has plenty of short passages that proved to be harder than longer ones... And here I thought that Lineage was such a pain to translate ^^;;

-BigVinny

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-=Ai-Ren v03 c16=-

Raws: USC_Gamecocks

Translator: BigVinny

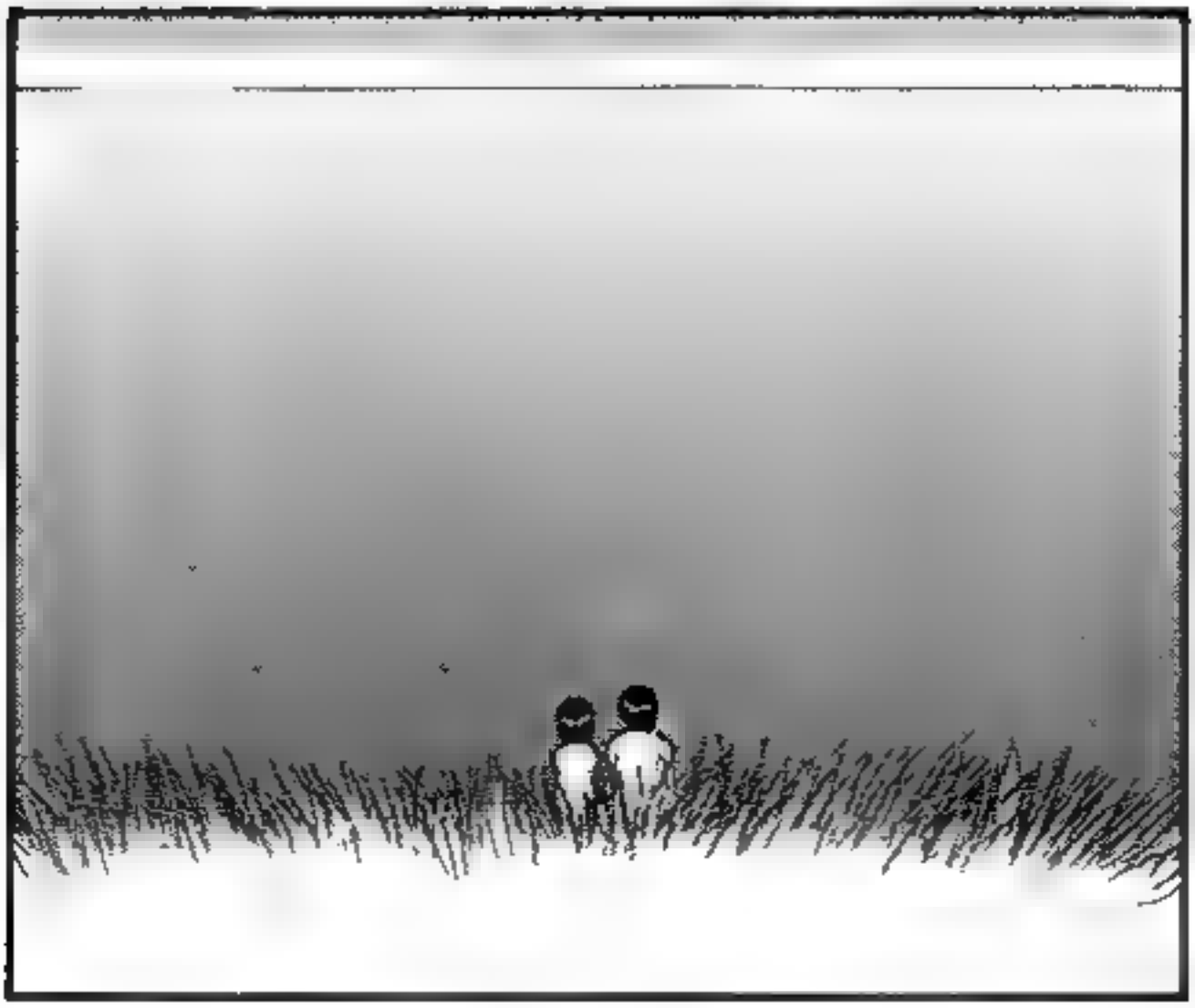
Editor: p00kie

## Some notes about this release...

Yes, this chapter was already released. No, there is no new plot-changing information revealed in this re-edit. The only difference between this and the previous release is, well, image quality. Sadly, for the original release, our raws left something to be desired, being in rather low resolution (also, text on art in the Korean version was just erased with a big ugly rectangle that was hard to fit words in, and I used nicer fonts this time around).

There is one other, ultimately minor difference between this and the original release. You'll notice the page numberings and whatnot indicate that this chapter is from volume 2, and not 3. Well, it is and it isn't. As explained in our c18 release, there was an odd difference between the Japanese and Korean versions of Ai-Ren, namely, in the Korean, volume 3 began with chapter 16, whereas in the Japanese ones (from which this is being edited), volume 3 begins with chapter 18. Minor point, I doubt any of you care, but that's why.

## If you read Ai-Ren, get these revised versions for c16/17.



愛人 [AI-REN]

# 17. Watching the Blue Sky with You

IKURU...

IKURU ...

HUH? THAT'S STRANGE...

OKAY, AI, I'M AWAKE!

-KURU!

IS THIS MY BODY?

AH..?!

IT'S COLD...

CAN'T BREATHE...

CAN'T MOVE...

NO! WAIT!!

IF THIS HAPPENS...

IF THIS HAPPENS...

I AM...

IKuRU-

NO!

I'M DEAD!

OKAY, LET'S GO!

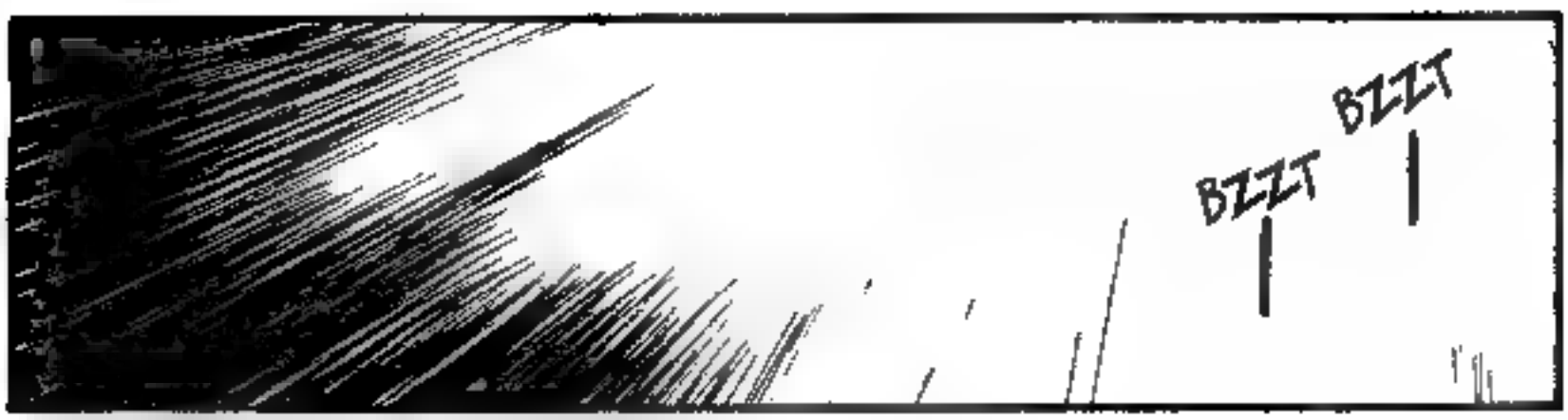
EH?

EH?!

<WHOOSH>

IT HIT ME THAT MORNING...

I AM DEAD.



BZZT BZZT

HUH?

OK

AI...

AI...

WHERE ARE YOU?

IT'S OUR HOUSE

AI?

~ZZ

ZZZZ

A...

A...

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

AI!

WHOOSH

!!

RUSTLE

WHOOSH

THAT'S...
DEATH?

IKURU!

<THUMP>

WHAT AWAITED ME UNDER THAT CHERRY TREE...

Al...

BEAUTIFULLY MATURED...

IKURU AND AI BOTH BECAME GHOSTS...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE AI AND IKURU LIVED IN THIS HOUSE...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU ARE...
AI...

A GHOST.
SMILE

...IS DEAD?

AI...

YES.

JUST LIKE IKURU...

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF HERE...

IT'S FOR THE BEST.

FOR-GIVE ME...

THE REAL SECRET...

MY SIN...

AI IS... SHE'S DEAD...

A...

AH...

AFTER I DIED, SHE DIED ALONE?

AAH..!

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...

I PROMISED TO PROTECT YOU...

BUT I LET YOU DIE ALONE...

I'M SORRY... SO SORRY...

I...

AI...

BECAUSE OF ME, EVERY-THING IS...

I DIDN'T... I DIDN'T WANT TO LET YOU GO!

I KILLED...

I KILLED YOU!

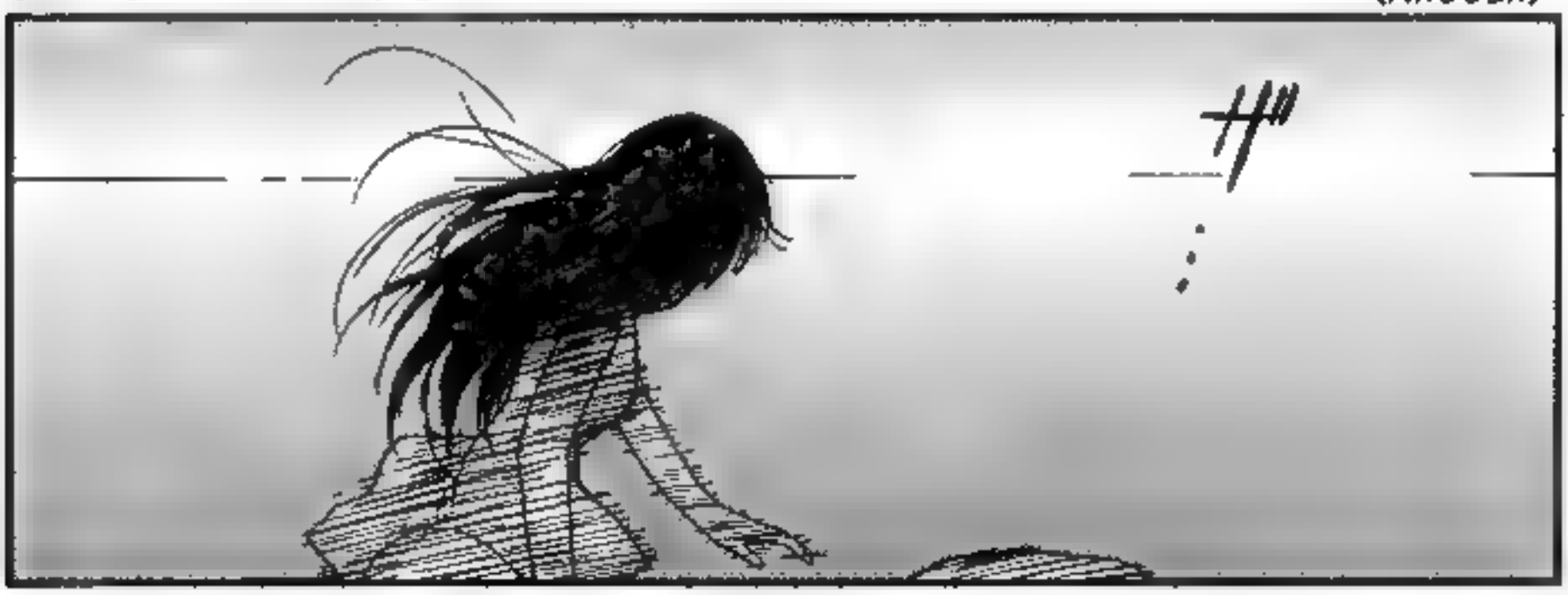
IF I WASN'T SO SELFISH, RESURRECTING YOU AS AN AI-REN...

YOU WOULD'VE HAD ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE FROZEN...

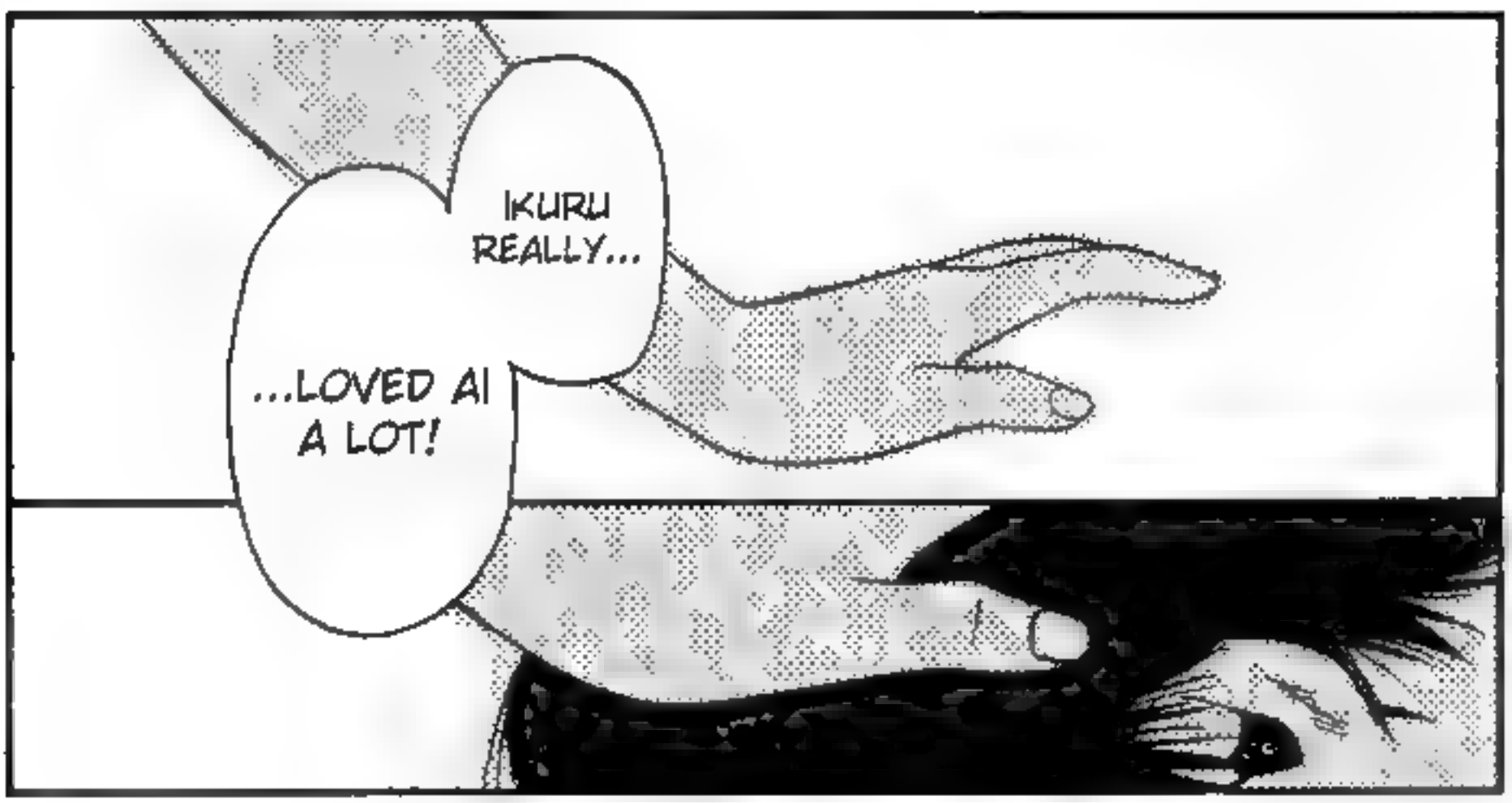
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...

I LEFT YOU TO DIE...

BECAUSE OF MY LONELI-NESS...




NO,




I LIVED MY LIFE WITHOUT REGRETS.

I WAS HAPPY.

AFTER HEARING AI'S WORDS...

THANK YOU, IKURU.

I HAD FOUND TRUE HAPPINESS...

A WORLD WITHOUT SADNESS...

FROM NOW ON, I DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OR SAD...

WITH AI..., TOGETHER FOREVER

I WAS HAPPY.

IKURU!

DON'T DIE YET!

YOU CAN'T DIE YET!

NOT YET!

IT'S NOT OVER YET!

LET ME GO!

IN THE DISTANT SKY, I WAS HELD BY DEATH...

AI IS CRYING!

YOU HAVE TO LIVE!

WHY?

FROM THESE EXPERIENCES, I CAME TO A CONCLUSION...

AN UNAVOIDABLE CONCLUSION...

EVERY HUMAN BEING DIES...

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CANNOT CHANGE THIS...

THAT'S THE ONLY TRUTH...

FOUND TRUE HAPPINESS?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND TRUE HAPPINESS...

DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY...

LIFE ONLY BRINGS PAIN AND SADNESS...

I CAN FINALLY END IT ALL IN PEACE...

JUST WATCH...

I HID IN THE DARKNESS, AFRAID...

I WAS AFRAID OF LIVING!

IKU-RU!

IKU-RU!

THERE IS ONLY DARKNESS...

BITTER, COLD DARKNESS...

WHAT IS MY REASON FOR LIVING?

SHIVER

SHIVER

SHIVER

IKURU!

IKURU!

<BA-DUMP>

TIRED...

RIP

RIP

RIP-

SO SAD...

IT HURTS...

THUMP

HOW-EVER...

THUMP

HOWEVER..!

<THUMP>

SHE LAUGHED...

YES, YOU...

IKURU...

THE CHEST OF DEATH WAS WARM...

THUMP

...SAID WE WOULD LIVE TOGETHER!

AI..!

IKURU!

Al...

I...

...KU...
RU...

SNIFF
SNIFF

HI.

Al...

I'M SORRY.

DID I WORRY YOU?

IKU-RU!

DON'T WORRY...

I WON'T GO ANY-WHERE...

...WITHOUT AI.

C

NOWHERE!

BZZT

BZZT

BZZT

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN. ART FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE DAY...
...AI WAS BORN...

IKURU SHOWED AI THE OCEAN AND THE SKY FOR THE FIRST TIME...

AI...

!!

IKURU...

I CONTINUE...

FROM A COLD AND DARK PLACE...

...TO WAIT FOR SOMEONE...

I'M NOT THE PERSON THAT AI SEES...

AND CONTINUE...

THE ONE WHO CALLED AI HERE...

...WAS IKURU.

...AI-REN.

MY...

AI...

<WHOOSH*3>

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO MEET SOME-ONE...

I COULD NO LONGER...

...LIVE OR DIE BY MYSELF...

YES...

THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HER TO THIS WORLD...

...WAS ME.

<WHOOSH>

Al...

Al...

UNTIL THE END... PLEASE STAY WITH ME...

IKURU...

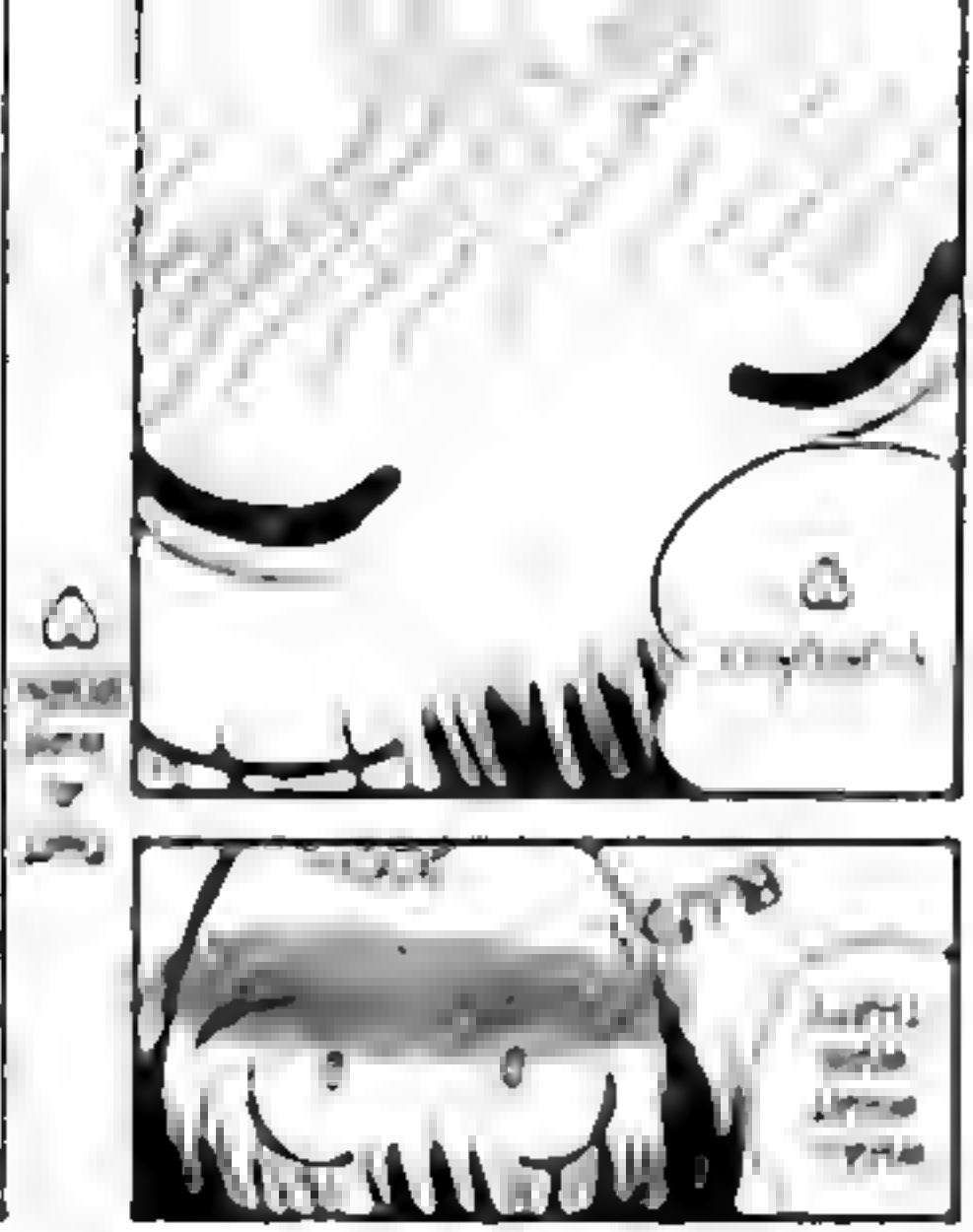
I'M SORRY, Al...

MM... (OK)

NO...

WATCHING IT TOGETHER... THE SKY LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL...

IKURU, LOOK-



LOVER'S KISS~ ♡

Tee hee hee...

I...

I...

.....

Al--

YAY! ♡

*I NOW HAVE SOMEONE I LOVE...*

HAVING SOMEONE
I LOVE.

[ Chapter 17 / End ]

BLAH BLAH BLAH. THERE WAS STUFF ORIGINALLY. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE. RAWR.

-POOKIE

This chapter is straightforward in stx, but boy... philosophical themes are never easy to work with. Give your thanks to the editor for making it sound natural, and made me move my lazy bottom and get this chapte done.

-BigVinny

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-=Ai-Ren v03 c17=-

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Translator: BigVinny

Editor: pOOkie

# 愛人 [AIREN]

## Chapter 18: Come On In

# -READ ME-

OK, SO THERE'S SOME WEIRD STUFF GOING ON, SO I'M GONNA MAKE USE OF THIS ODDLY PLACED BLANK PAGE TO EXPLAIN IT.

ORIGINALLY AI-REN WAS BEING DONE FROM KOREAN RAWS, IN WHICH VOLUME 3 BEGAN WITH CHAPTER 16. UNFORTUNATELY, THE KOREAN RAWS WE HAD WEREN'T EXACTLY VERY PRETTY (YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE EASILY), SO WE WENT AND FOUND THESE JAPANESE RAWS.

NOW, AS I'M SURE YOU CAN SEE, THESE JAPANESE RAWS ARE DIFFERENT IN TERMS OF VOLUME NUMBERING, NAMELY VOLUME 3 STARTS WITH CHAPTER 18. WHY? I DON'T KNOW. I FIND IT AWFULLY SILLY, THAT BETWEEN TWO LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE SAME MANGA, THE VOLUME CONTENTS ARE DIFFERENT. BUT, THEY ARE, AND FOR THE SAKE OF BRINGING YOU HIGHER QUALITY RELEASES, WE'LL BE USING THESE JAP RAWS. SORRY ABOUT THE MIXUP.

WE'RE PLANNING TO REDO CHAPS 16 AND 17 IN HIGHER QUALITY (SEMI-SOON, ASSUMING I CAN GRAB VOL2 JAP RAWS), SINCE THIS MANGA REALLY DESERVES TO BE SEEN IN BETTER QUALITY THAN WERE PROVIDED.

-POOKIE

WEIGHING T
TOGETHER.
THE SKY
LOOKS SO
BEAUTIFUL!

IKURU,

AS I SAID BEFORE,

AI IS PERFECTLY HEALTHY AND NORMAL!

THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM BEING SICK!

# 愛人(AI-REN)③

STILL, I WAS REALLY SUR-PRISED...

OK?

AI WAS FRIGHTENED AND I WAS PANICKING...

HA...

DON'T WORRY, I ALREADY EXPLAINED IT TO AI...

SO, IS SHE REALLY ALRIGHT?

STOP THIS ALREADY!

THIS SIMPLY PROVES THAT AI IS A WOMAN!

THERE-FORE...

HER BODY IS CAPABLE OF BECOMING PREGNANT!

I EXAMINED THE SAMPLE TAKEN FROM HER, BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING CONCLUSIVE...

SINCE SHE'S AN AGH CARTIFICIAL GENES HUMAND, IT MIGHT'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED...

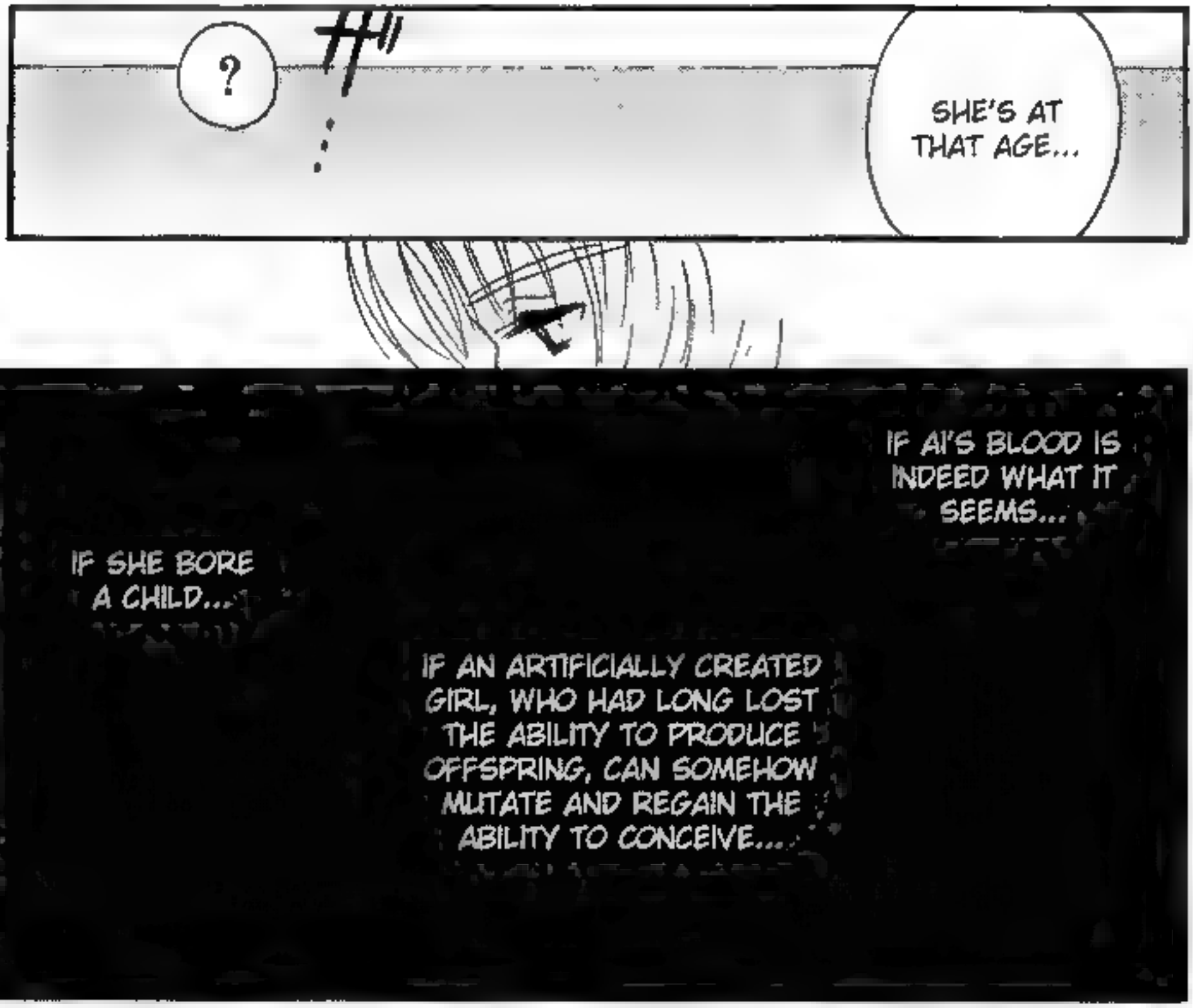
THIS DOESN'T PROVE WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS A PERIOD...

AI HAS BECOME MORE BEAUTI-FUL...

I SEE... LATELY,

THAT'S THE REASON BEHIND THE CHANGES IN HER BODY...

HOWEVER, HER HORMONE LEVELS WERE ABNORMAL...


?
SHE'S AT THAT AGE...
IF AI'S BLOOD IS INDEED WHAT IT SEEMS...
IF SHE BORE A CHILD...
IF AN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED GIRL, WHO HAD LONG LOST THE ABILITY TO PRODUCE OFFSPRING, CAN SOMEHOW MUTATE AND REGAIN THE ABILITY TO CONCEIVE...

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THAT CHILD?

<GRIN>

I WANTED TO HEAR HER SAY "WELCOME BACK!" ♡

WHA?

AI AND I WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER...

SO TODAY, I INTENTIONALLY CAME BY MYSELF!

I'M GONNA BUY HER A PRESENT FROM THE MARKET ON MY WAY HOME,

WHILE AI IS PREPARING DINNER!

……!!
ISN'T IT ROMANTIC? RIGHT, SENSEI?
……
day-dream-ing...
IN THE EVENING, WHEN I SAY "I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT!"
AI WILL SAY...
"COME ON IN!"
AND THEN-
WHAT THE...
WHA……

THE ENDLESS SUMMER CONTINUES...

ALIVE...

WHEW

BOTH OF US ARE STILL...

I TOLD AI THE TRUTH...

ABOUT MY BODY BEING BEYOND REPIR...

ABOUT HOW AI IS AN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED "AI-REN"

ABOUT HER HAVING ONLY A FEW MONTHS LEFT TO LIVE...

AI TOOK IT PRETTY WELL...

HOWEVER...

WITH THAT, I THOUGHT THERE WERE NO MORE SECRETS BETWEEN US...

THAT AI WOULD OFTEN DISAPPEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

Ai...

I REAL-IZED LATER...

Ai...

Ai...

THERE ISN'T ANYONE WHO'S NOT AFRAID OF DEATH...

THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN TREAT DEATH AS IF IT WAS NOTHING...

Ai-

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY BY YOURSELF...

NO...

キュッ

IKURU... IS HURT...

IKURU WANTS TO CRY TOO...

IF Ai CRIES...

...IF Ai BECOMES SAD...

Al...

DO YOU REMEMBER, AI? YOU HELD ME LIKE THIS WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO MY HOUSE...

YOU HELD ME WITH YOUR NAKED BODY AS I SHIVERED IN FEAR...

THIS TIME, IT'S MY TURN TO COMFORT YOU...

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY ONE AND ONLY AI-REN!

SINCE THEN, HARDER DAYS HAVE COME.

AI COULD NO LONGER HOLD IT BACK...

A RIP IN HER HEART HAS OPENED...

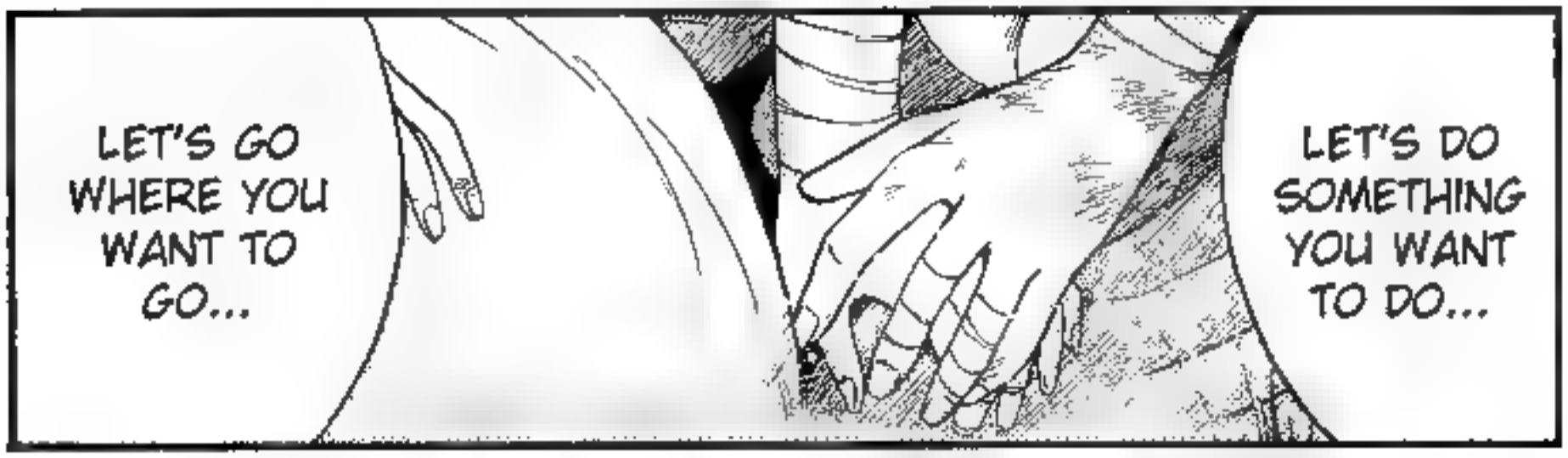
ENDLESS DAYS OF MISERY AND SORROW...

CANNOT DIE...
I CANNOT DIE..!
I WILL NOT DIE AND LEAVE AI!
NOT EVEN DEATH WILL KILL ME!

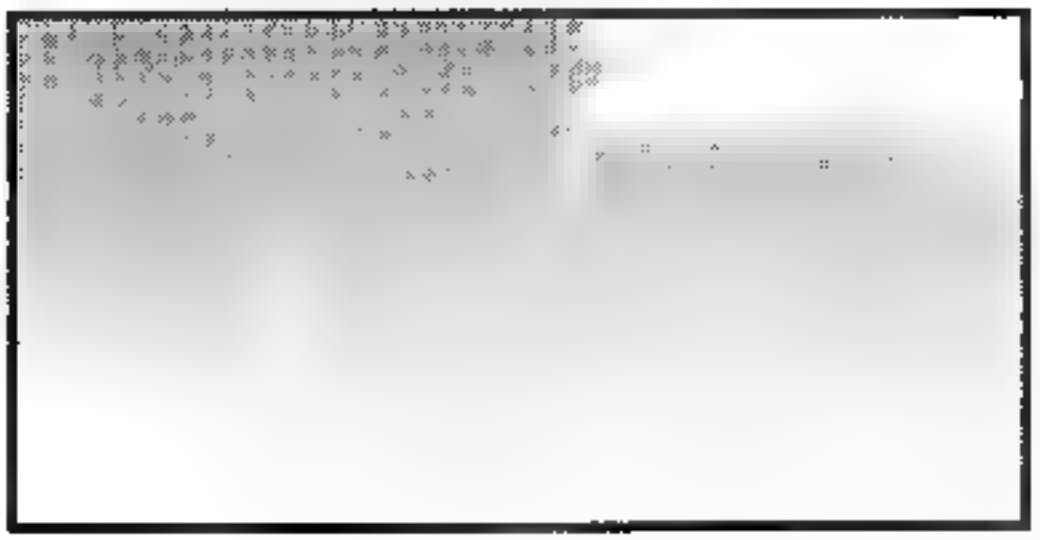
LITTLE BY LITTLE, AI BEGAN TO RECOVER...

AND THEN...

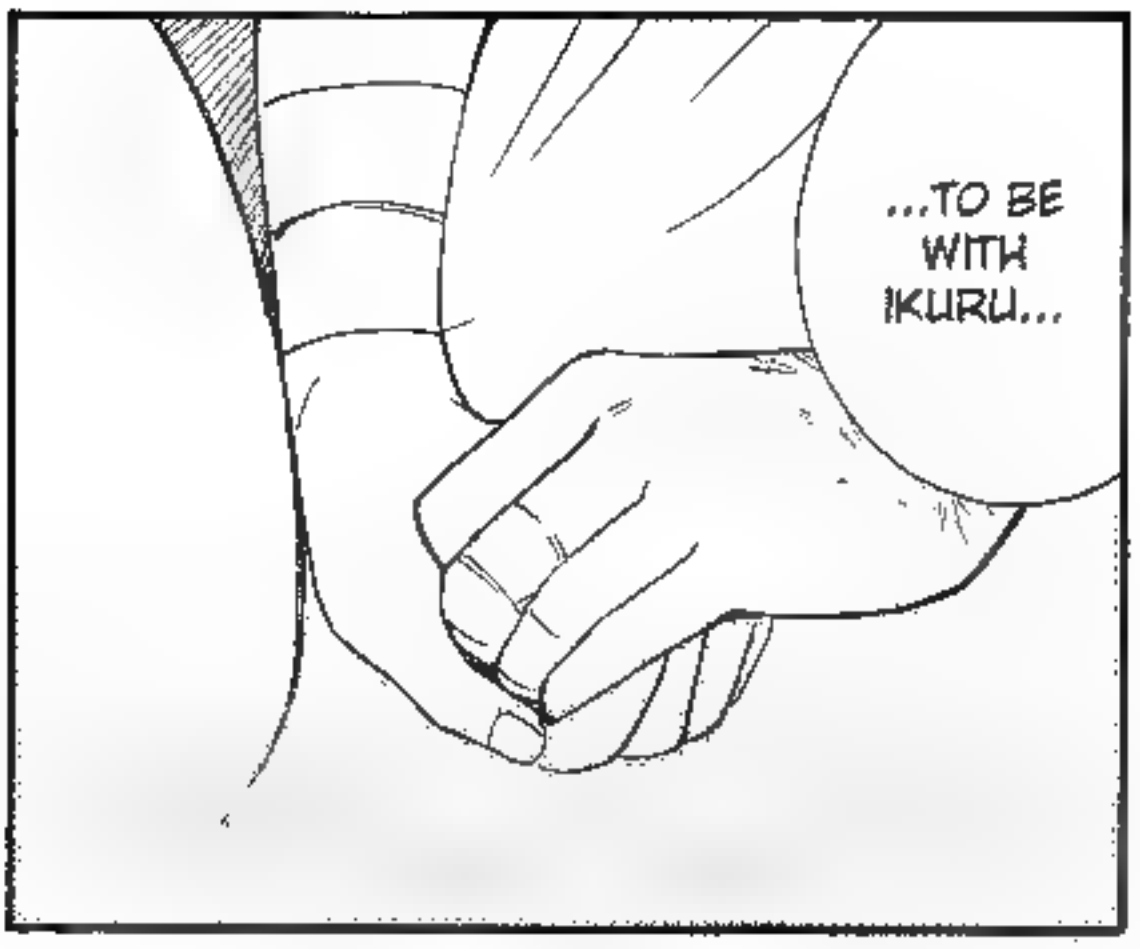
LET'S ENJOY IT WHILE WE CAN!
SINCE THERE IS STILL SOME TIME LEFT...
AI, SINCE YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD...


LET'S GO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO...
LET'S DO SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO...

AI...
WHAT DOES AI WANT?

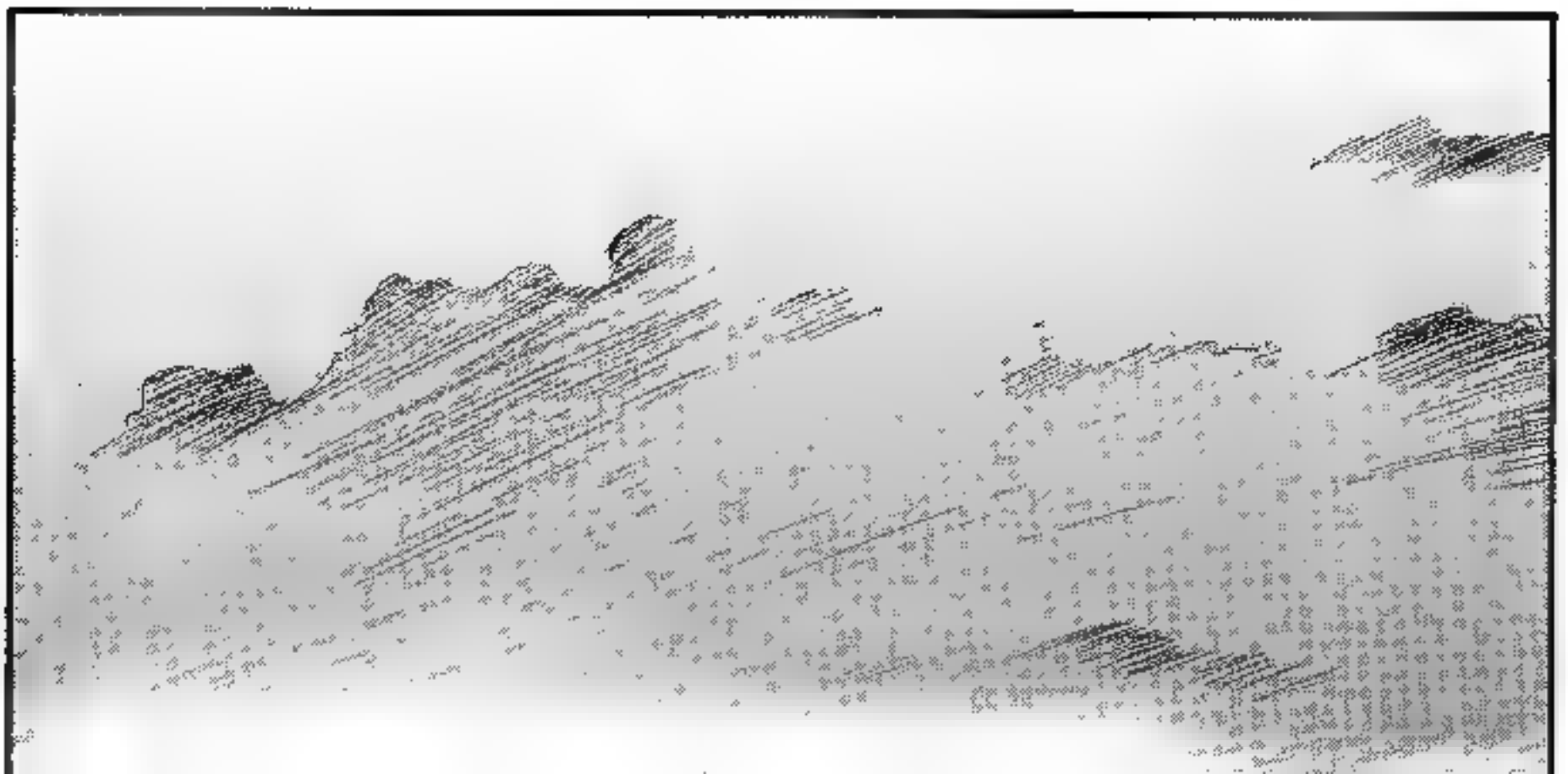


AI WANTS...




*AI HAS RETURNED...*

*...YES, THAT'S RIGHT...*



キッコ

キッコ

ONCE I MAKE IT OVER THIS HILL, I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE OUR HOUSE...

キッコ

IKURU

!!

AND THERE WAITS...

COME ON IN!

WELCOME BACK~

THE PERSON WHO I LOVE THE MOST..

I'M BACK!
♡

AI!

AI...

IKURU-
♡

?

IF WE FINISH IT SO QUICKLY, IT'LL FEEL EMPTY...

HOLD ON!

AH!

NO!

...JUST TO KISS YOU...

BESIDES, I WAITED AN ENTIRE DAY...

SO...

RIGHT.

right?

IKURU-♡

I'M BACK.

Al.

HM-

ドキ ドキ

WELCOME BACK!

[ #18 -End- ]

Chapter 18 done. Yay. I think i actually prefer the sad gloomy chaps of Ai-Ren better than these feel-good ones. Oh well. Come visit our chan, it makes us feel better knowing that someone appreciates our work =D
-pOOkie

Good gravy... Here I am, thinking about finishing this chapter while I was on a roll, and ended up with incredibly hard chapter.
I should've just concentrating on packing stuff for the moving.
I have a test this week, so don't count on the next chapter until next sunday. Sorry ^^;;
-BigVinny

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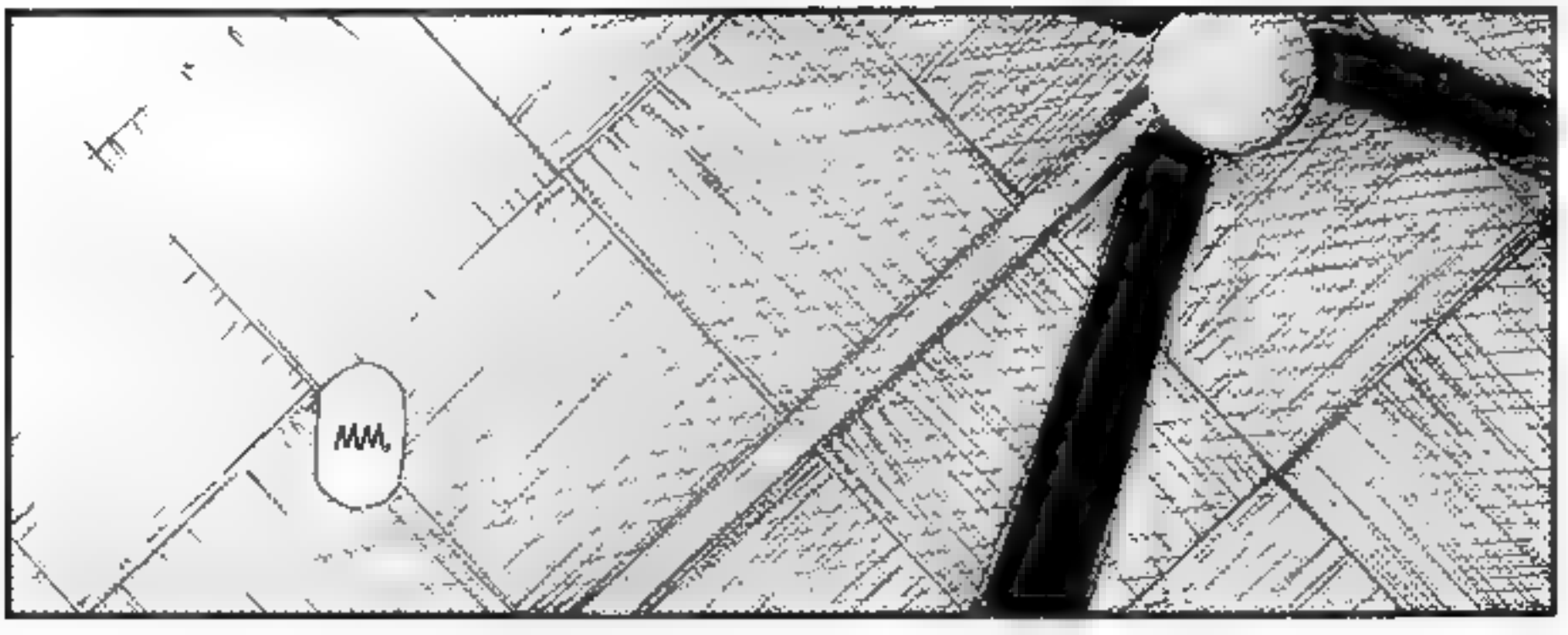
AH...

I SEE...

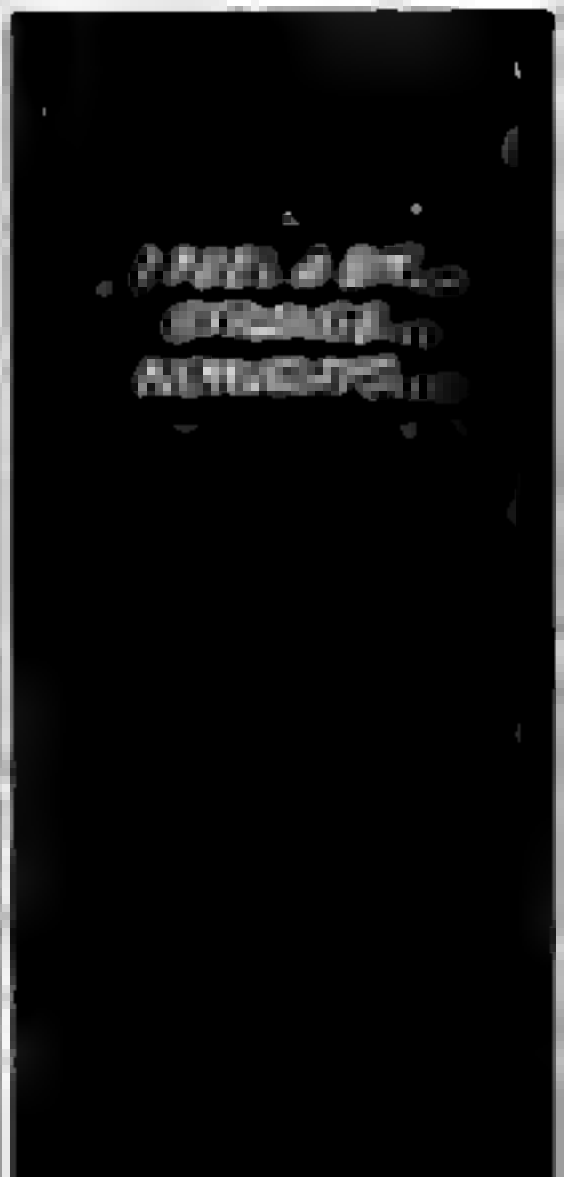
THE SMELL OF THE OCEAN...

THAT HOUSE IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH THAT SCENT...



# 愛人 [AI-JIN]

## Chapter 19. Boy's Morning



ZZZ

ZZZ

<WHOOSH>

ZZZ

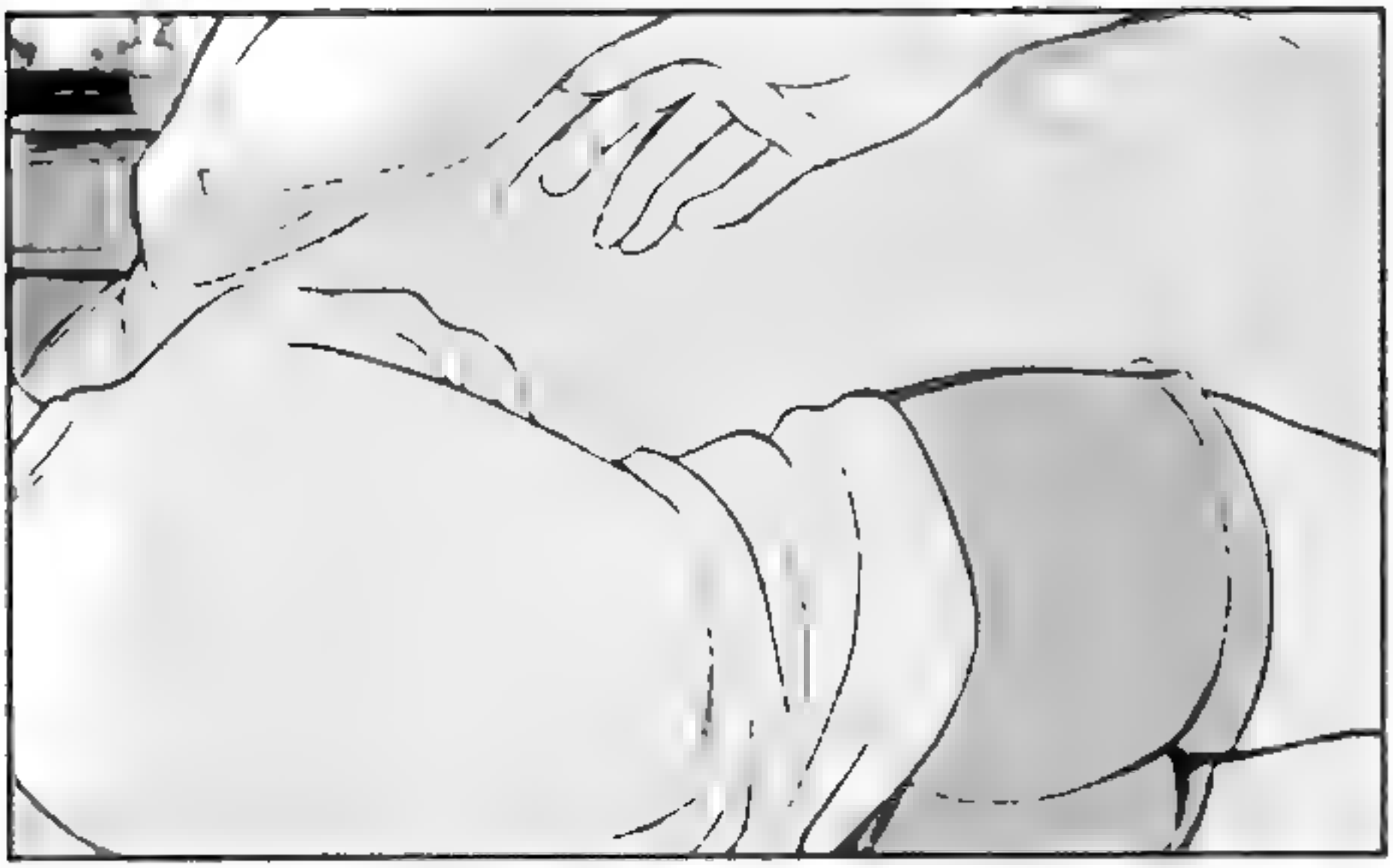
ZZZ

I AM A BIT STRANGE...

AI'S SLEEPING FACE, SO SWEET YET SO SAD... IT STIRS UP A CRUEL FEELING IN MY HEART...

ZZZ

ZZZ



ZZZ
ZZZ

SO SOFT
LOOKS SO WARM
THOSE SHORT, LEAN

AI IS MY GIRL!

I WANT TO TOUCH!

I WANT TO TOUCH...

I WANT TO TOUCH...

HM?

TURN-

THUMP
THUMP
AH...
MORN-
ING...
HAA
HAA—
THUMP
WHAM!
HMM?
IKURU?
THUMP
THUMP
HM?
MORN-
ING...
CHU-
AH...
KISS

mmm~

JUST NOW...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

WHEW

FWIP

WHAT WAS I...

TRYING TO TELL AI..?

AH,

I THINK I CAN EAT FOOD TODAY...

LOOK, AI...

.....

HA-

I TASTED AI WHEN I KISSED YOU...

I SHOULD DOUBLE CHECK, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE!

UN.

SO WE CAN EAT TOGETHER?

YAY!

YIPEE!

IKURU WILL LOVE IT, I'M SURE! ♡

AI WILL MAKE HER NEW SPECIAL, CHICKEN WITH ONION!

♡

TAP TAP TAP

OK...

HURRY UP, IKURU!

WAI~!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY!

WHUMP

.....

...FROM WHERE SHE SLEPT...

I CAN STILL FEEL AND SMELL AI'S WARMTH...

INHALE—

A...AL-RIGHT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY UP!

AI...

AM I THE REASON WHY AI LOOKS DIFFERENT?

OR DID SHE REALLY CHANGE?

Watch the eggs, Iku-U

HOW DID SHE CHANGE?

HER HEIGHT SEEMS THE SAME...

AH, SHE DIDN'T GROW, HER FIGURE JUST SEEMS...!

chop chop

AI HAS CHANGED...

HOW SHOULD I SAY... FULLER...

BUT HOW..?

PRETTY...

AI HAS...

...BECOME VERY PRETTY...

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
DING!
DELICIOUS!
fufu fu~
AI, THIS IS AMAZING!
SMILE
SMILE
SMILE
AI TRIED HARD, JUST TO SEE IKURU SMILE~!
ふふふふ
fu fu fu fu!

<FULL OF PRIDE>

WHEN IKURU IS HAPPY...

AI IS HAPPY TOO! ♡

<SMILE>

BLUSH

AH-

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME..?

I CAN'T EVEN LOOK STRAIGHT AT HER... WHAT SHOULD I DO..?

WHAT SHOULD I DO..?

THUMP

THUMP

WHAT'S WRONG?

FLAP

WAH!

FLAP

IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER HOT DAY...

LAUNDRY'S DONE!

FWIP

HIYA-

MMM...

IT FEELS SO NICE...

UM...

WHY... DID YOU WEAR SUCH A SHORT DRESS?

AI...

UM... YEAH...

THUMP

ISN'T THE WEATHER GREAT TODAY?

IF YOU WEAR A DRESS LIKE THAT, IT MIGHT SHOW...

I THINK IT'S A BIT TOO SHORT...

HM?

WHY DO YOU ASK?

YOU THINK TOO MUCH!

SMILE

SMILE

IT'S TOO FUNNY!

IKURU,

FUFU FU~

WHICH IS WHY I LET YOU PEEK INSIDE MY SKIRT...

IT'S SO FUNNY~ ♡

BLUSH

I ALREADY KNEW YOU WERE STARING AT MY BODY, AND THEN YOU TURNED AROUND LOOKING SO AWKWARD...

IT'S EMBARASSING TO KNOW THAT IKURU HAS A PERVERTED SIDE, BUT IT ALSO MAKES AI HAPPY...

WHY WOULD I LOOK UP YOUR SKIRT?!

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I KNOW YOU WANT TO LOOK...

IT'S PRETTY EXCITING, ISN'T IT? ♡

IKURU, IT'S OKAY...

WHAT?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

YOU CAN LIFT MY SKIRT...

GO ON...

RE... REALLY?

WHEN I MENTIONED YOUR SKIRT..!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

LIAR!

STAND

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

NO! NO WAY!

# 愛人(AI-REN)③

I'M STARTING TO FEEL EMBARASSED NOW...

AH,

I'M FINE! YOU SHOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

THEN... JUST STOP!

STRANGE, BUT FUN... ♡

BUT IT'S EXCIT-ING...

WHAT?!

THEN I'LL LIFT IT MYSELF!

WHY?!

WHAT?!

WAIT A SECOND!

AI WILL SHOW IKURU!

COME ON!

EHH!!

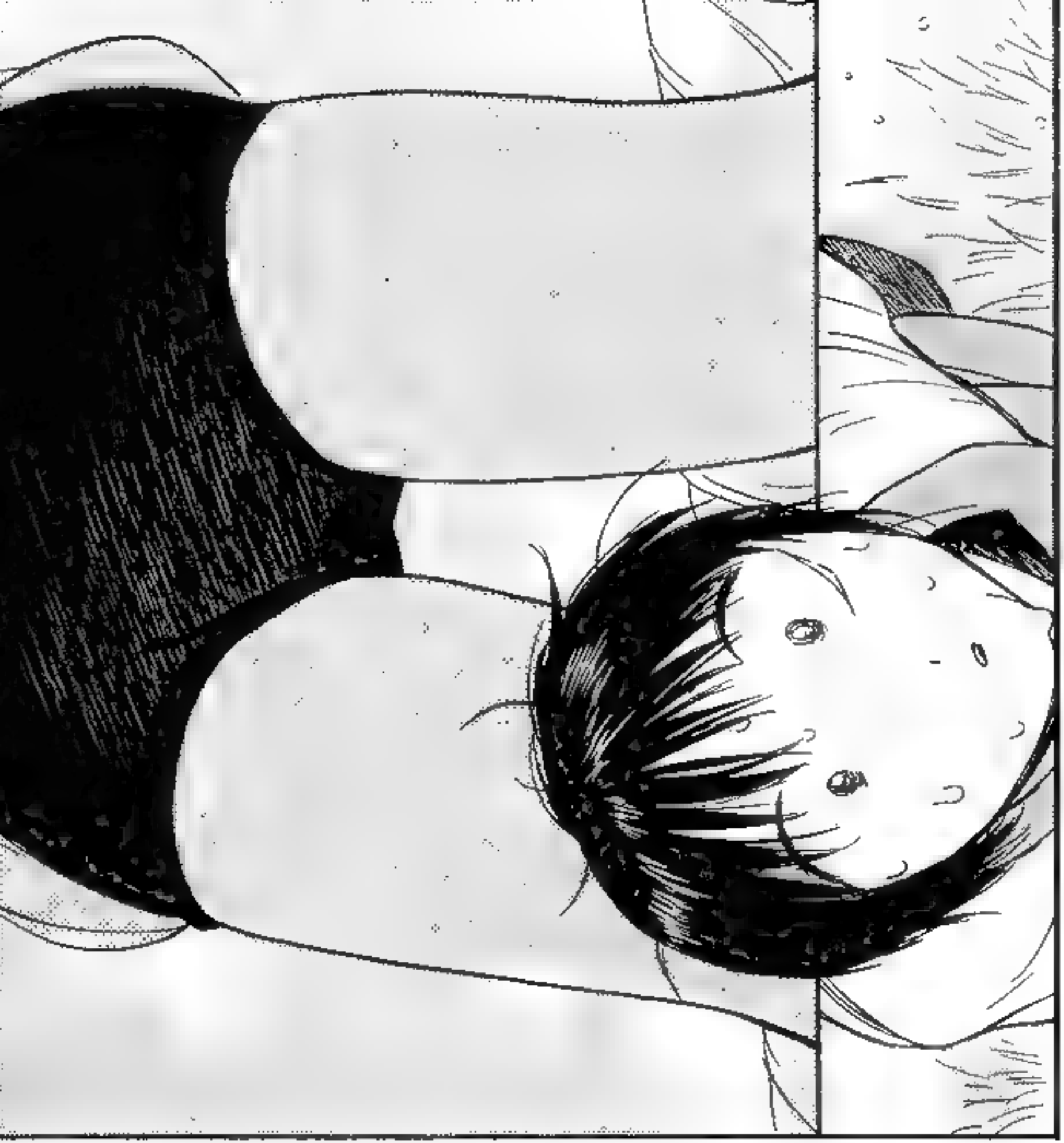
IKURU, LOOK OVER HERE!

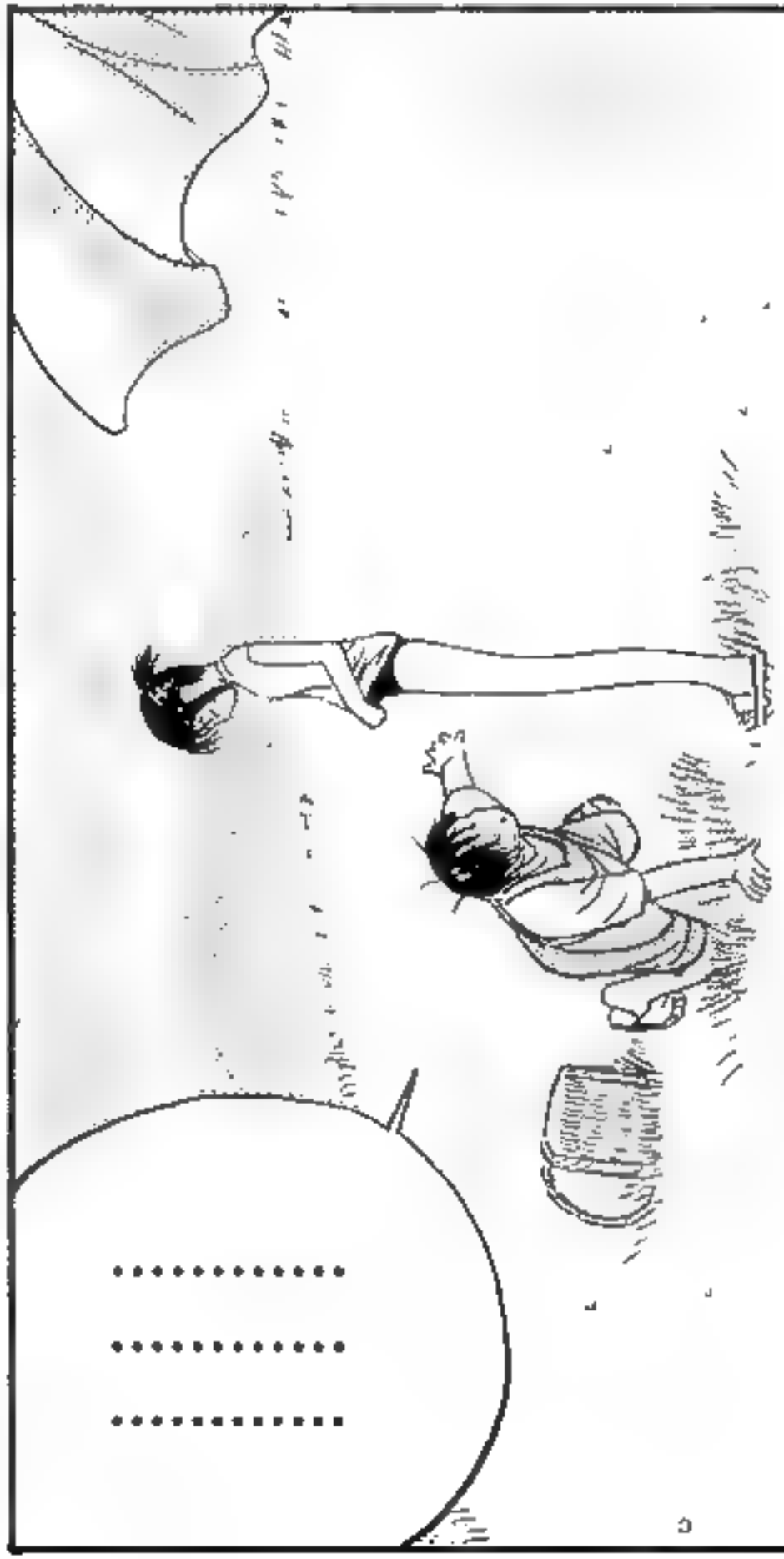
IKURU~

NO!

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LOOK!

FINE!






DAMN YOU ALL FOR EXPECTING TO SEE AI'S NAUGHTY BITS!

NO...

DIDN'T YOU WANT TO SEE AI'S UNDER-WEAR?

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

BLUSH BLUSH

AH...

SO..?

ARE YOU DISAP-POINTED?

I WAS THE ONE WHO BOUGHT YOU UNDERWEAR IN THE FIRST PLACE! BACK THEN, YOU USED TO RUN AROUND NAKED..! AND THEN... THEN...

THAT'S SILLY! WHY WOULD I WANT TO SEE AI'S UNDERWEAR?!

WA HA HAH HA!

ACK!

<CRASH!

PFFT!

AHA-
HA-
HAHA!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY..?

WHAT?

IKURU IS...

IKURU... ♡

...IS SO CUTE! ♡

WHUMP-

*AI WAS LAYING ON THE GRASS, LAUGHING HARD...*

*I WAS TOO EMBARASSED TO LOOK AT HER...*

*THAT WARM AND HAPPY LAUGHTER...*

[ #19 -----End ]

DAMN YOU ALL FOR HOPING YOU WOULD CATCH A GLIMPSE OF AI'S NAUGHTY BITS. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!

-POOKIE

I AM ON FIRE LATELY. THIS NEW APARTMENT GIVES ME A SENSE OF SECURITY AND TRANQUILITY. I ACTUALLY FINISHED THIS CHAPTER IN LESS THAN 4 HOURS. ISN'T THAT COOL? BARRING POOKIE'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE, I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO FINISH THIS VOLUME IN 3 WEEKS OR LESS. NOW COMES THE BIGGIE. I NEED RAWS FOR VOLUME 4. THOSE WHO WANTS TO READ MORE AI-REN, PLEASE HELP US OUT BY LOCATING KOREAN RAW. WHY KOREAN RAW, YOU ASK? SIMPLE. THAT'S THE LANGUAGE I CAN TRANSLATE.

-BIGVINNY

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Editor: pOOkie

MAKE SURE
YOU GOT THE
REVISED (HQ/v2)
VERSIONS OF
CHAPTERS
16 & 17!

# 愛人

20. Moonlight

I ASKED HER TO PLAY IT TOGETHER WITH ME, BUT SHE LEFT TO TAKE CARE OF THE TOMATOES INSTEAD...

AI REJECTED ME...

.....

WHY AM I SO DEPRESSED OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

DEPRESSED

HMPH

Ai...

Ai...

soft~

AH...

DING

DONG

DANG

FUFU FU~ ♡

WHAT ABOUT THE TOMA-TOES?

I'M DONE.

SLIDE

LET'S PLAY!

MM.

SLIDE

SLIDE

SO
EXCITING-
♡

MEAT SOUP, AND FOR DESSERT, DELICIOUS PUDDING♬

TODAY'S MENU: TOMATO AND EGGPLANT PASTA-♡

BEFORE I START,

MM,

STAND

GO ON, DIG IN!

WAH! ♡

CHU—

THANK YOU, IKURU.

AH...

DDD

FLIP

.....

THANKS FOR THE MEAL!

AI DOESN'T KNOW...
HOW MUCH I LOVE HER KISS...

HAH...

SQUEEZE

AI WILL BE IKURU'S MEAL INSTEAD!

WHEN IKURU CAN'T EAT...

?

IKU-RU,

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT...

UM... OK...

!!

IKURU'S MEAL!

<WHUMP>

GO ON-
♡

THANKS FOR THE MEAL...

THUMP

THUMP

THA...

AI'S...

AI...

THUMP_

AI...

AI-
♡

WARMTH...

THUMP

THUMP

SOFTNESS...

THUMP

WEIGHT...

WHERE'S THE MEDICINE?

AH...

click

HA

HA

PUMP

PUMP

PSSSSHH-

WHEW.

SS

THIS PAINKILLER I'M TAKING...

IF A DOCTOR SAW THIS, HE'D BE SCARED...

THE ORIGINAL MEDICINE HAS LONG LOST ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

IS WELL ABOVE THE RECOMMENDED LEVEL FOR NORMAL PEOPLE...

HA-

THE ONE I'M USING NOW IS SLOWLY BECOMING USELESS...

I CAN FEEL IT... DAY BY DAY, MY BODY IS...

NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I CHANGE TO A NEW MEDICINE, IT QUICKLY LOSES EFFICACY...

TAP TAP

I'M SORRY.

IT'S OKAY.

AH...

STEAMY

STEAMY

IKURU! THE BATH IS WARM!

HMM?

...TO DEATH

GETTING CLOSER...

WHEW

AH! TODAYS PUDDING WAS REALLY GOOD!

IKURU'S COOKING IS GREAT! ♡

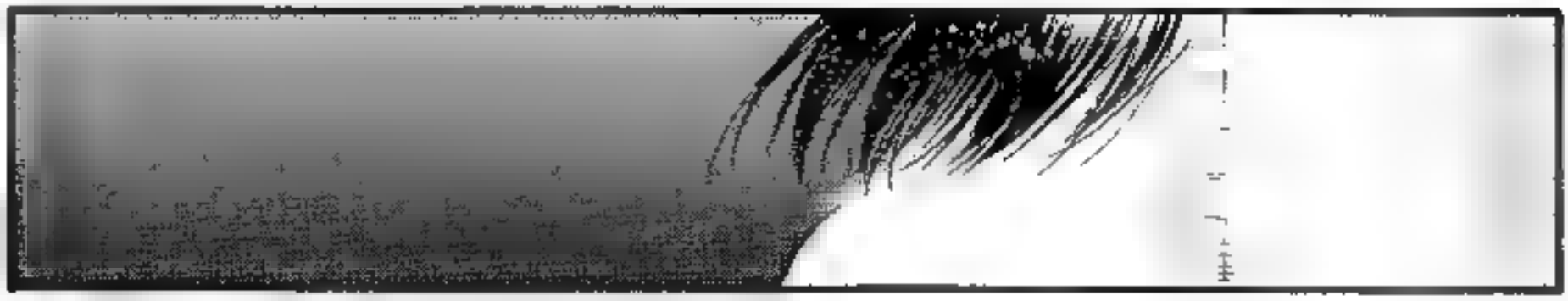
FLIP

THANKS.

MM!

TAKE A BATH BEFORE IT COOLS DOWN!

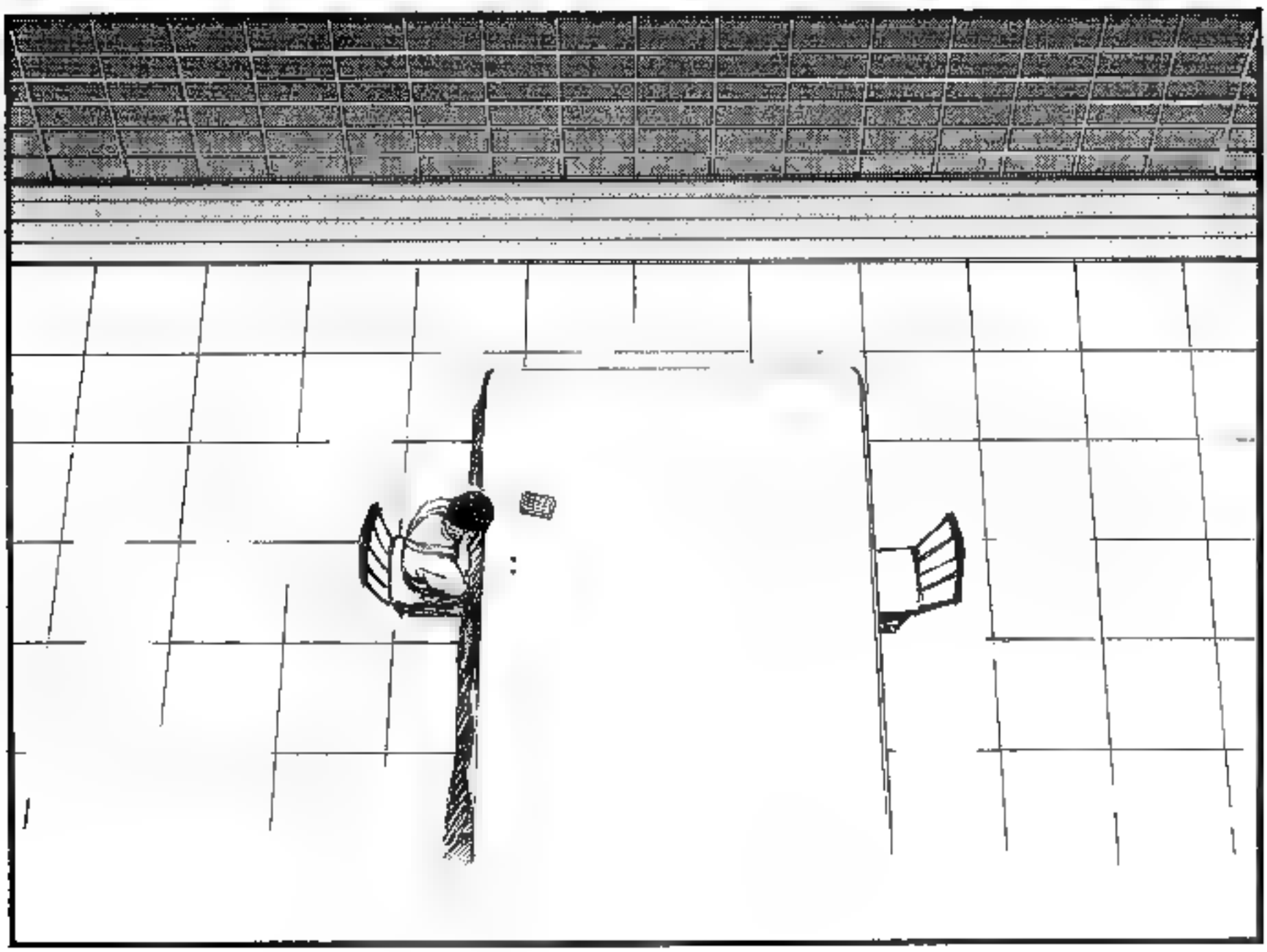
EVEN THOUGH WE BOTH KNOW I'M TAKING THESE PAINKILLERS, WE DECIDED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT... IT'S BEEN OUR SILENT PROMISE...

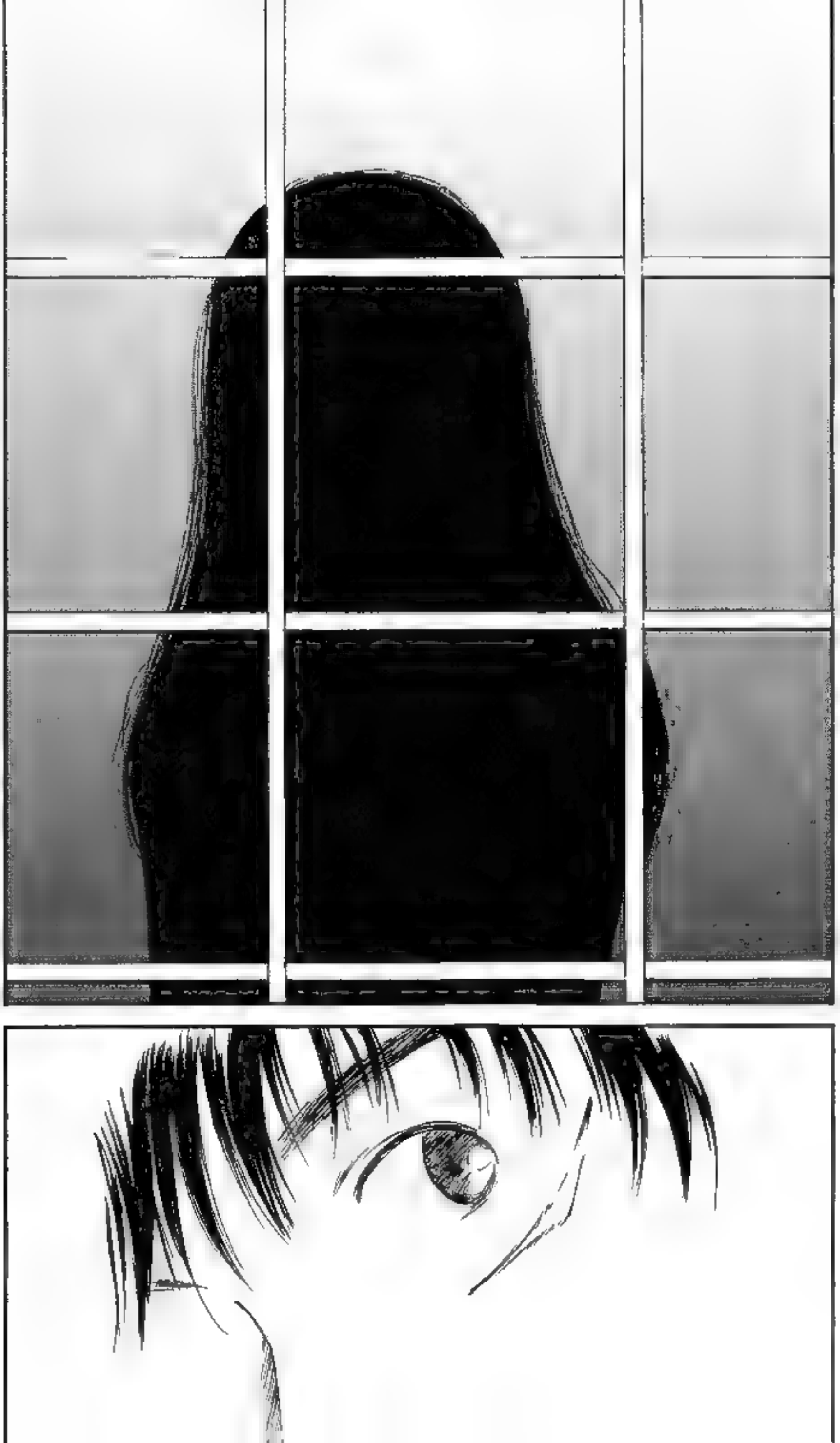


AI'S HAIR HAS GOTTEN PRETTY LONG...

IF HER LIFESPAN IS AT MOST TEN MONTHS...

THE SHE HAS...





DEATH!

IT'S WATCHING US...

IT IS...

...WATCHING AI AND ME....

AI...

<WHOOSH>

HA!

...

HA!

# 愛人(AI-REN)③

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
SLIDE
SQUEEZE

JUST BEFORE, THE EMOTION FILLING MY HEART WAS....!

HA

HA

IN THIS SITUA-TION...

HA

HA

HA

I WAS FULL OF HATE AND ANGER!!

HA

FOR THE FIRST TIME...

HA

HA

AND YET... CALM...

COLD AND DARK...

A DEATH WISH...

I CAN HEAR AI PLAYING THE PIANO...

HA

AH

UGH

SHE'S GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT IT....

AI'S...

SOFTNESS...

...WARMTH...

WEIGHT...

...HOW LITTLE TIME WAS LEFT IN OUR PRECIOUS LIVES...

I FINALLY REALIZED...

<WHOOSH>

[ #20 End ]

Wow, there were a lot of pgs in this chap with like no dialogue, lotsa sfx and whatnot  Anyways, another nice creepy chapter with a cameo from ol' death. Enjoy ^^

-p00kie

My mood is swinging violently just like how Mets play this season. They win, then they lose, and so on... For those who root for perennial underdog teams (like me), you know how it is... eternal frustration. So why am I talking about this? Simple, my future schedule will be greatly depend upon how Mets perform. Time to pray for Mets (Vinny laughs evily, "fufufu, I shall hold the next chapter as the hostage, if you don't pray")

-BigVinny

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Translator: BigVinny

Editor: p00kie

BRUSH
BRUSH
DONE!
PRESS
PRESS
CLUNK
CLUNK
IKURU!
愛人
[AI REN]

FUFU FU~ ♡

DID YOU WAIT LONG? ♡

BLUSH

……

WELL THEN, SHALL WE?

# 愛人 [AI-REN]

## 21. Let's Go Out ♡

HOP

SPECIALLY MADE CUSHION FOR AI

LET'S GO!

WE DECIDED TO DRESS UP AND GO OUT FOR A CHANGE...

JUST FOR TODAY, WE WOULD SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY WITHOUT WORRY...

WHOA!

EEP!

HUG

AH, A DATE~ ♡

IKURU, IS THIS WHAT PEOPLE CALL A "DATE?"

I GUESS SO...

THUMP

UM...

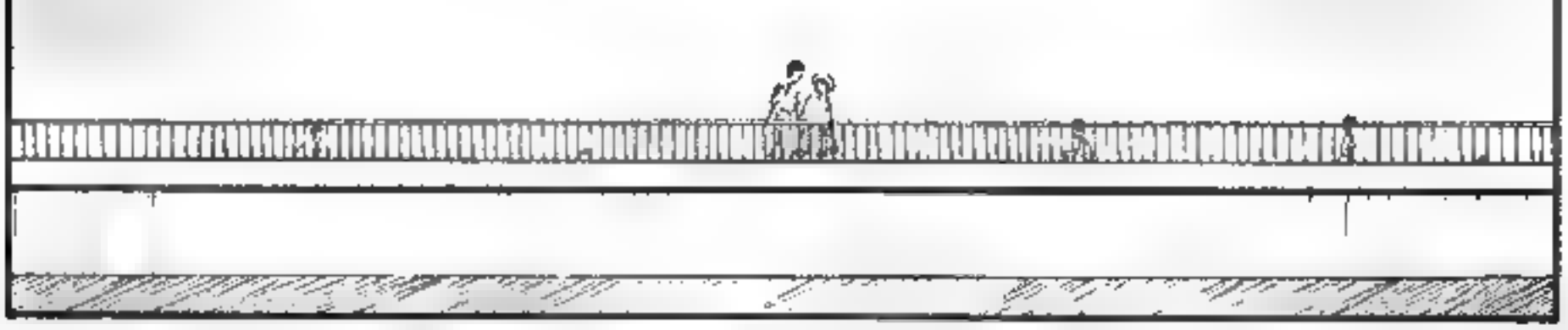
SO NOISY, LIKE A PAGE FROM A FAIRY TALE...

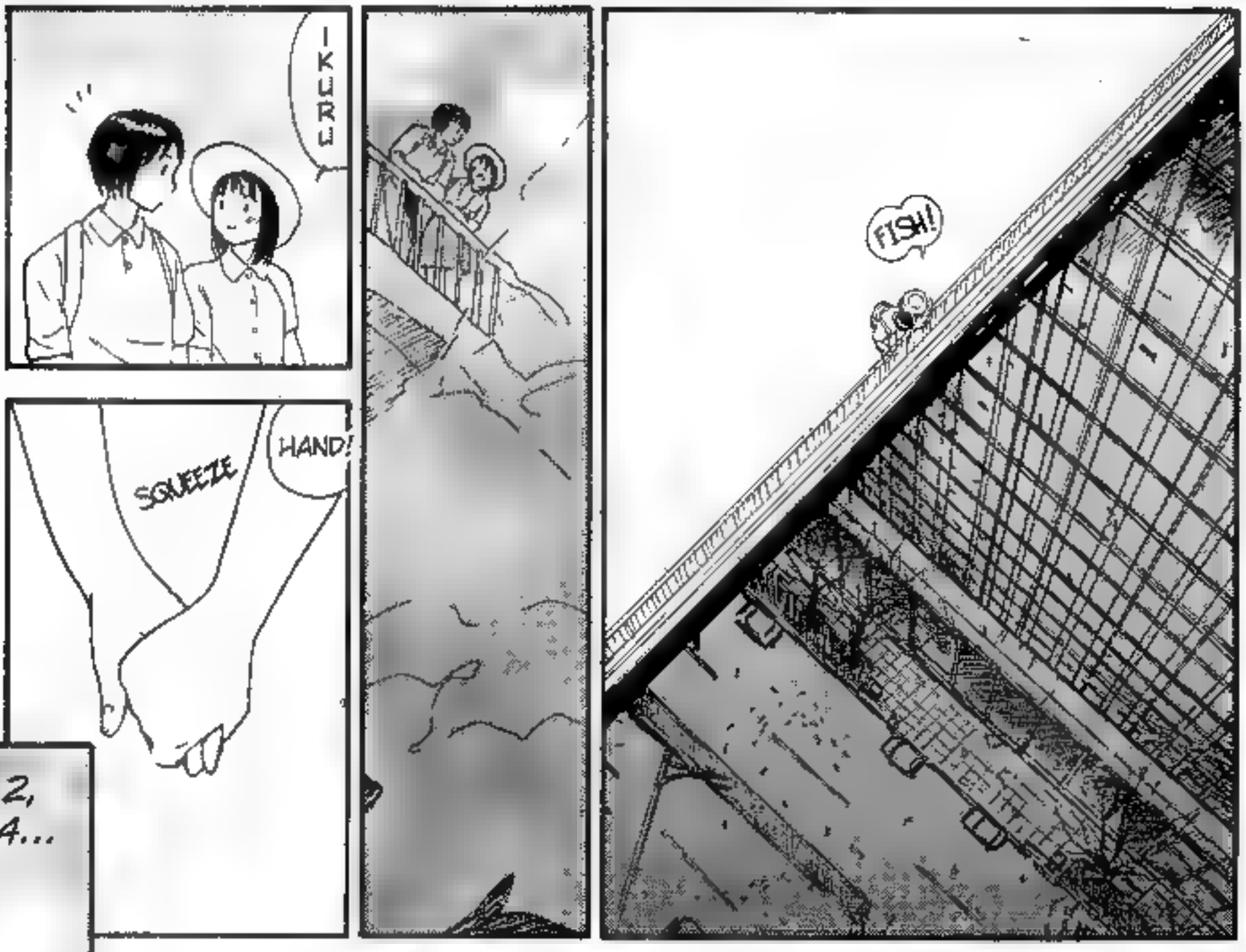
WALKING WITH AI IN A SHOPPING MALL ON THE WEEKEND...

WAH!

UTAMARO BOY

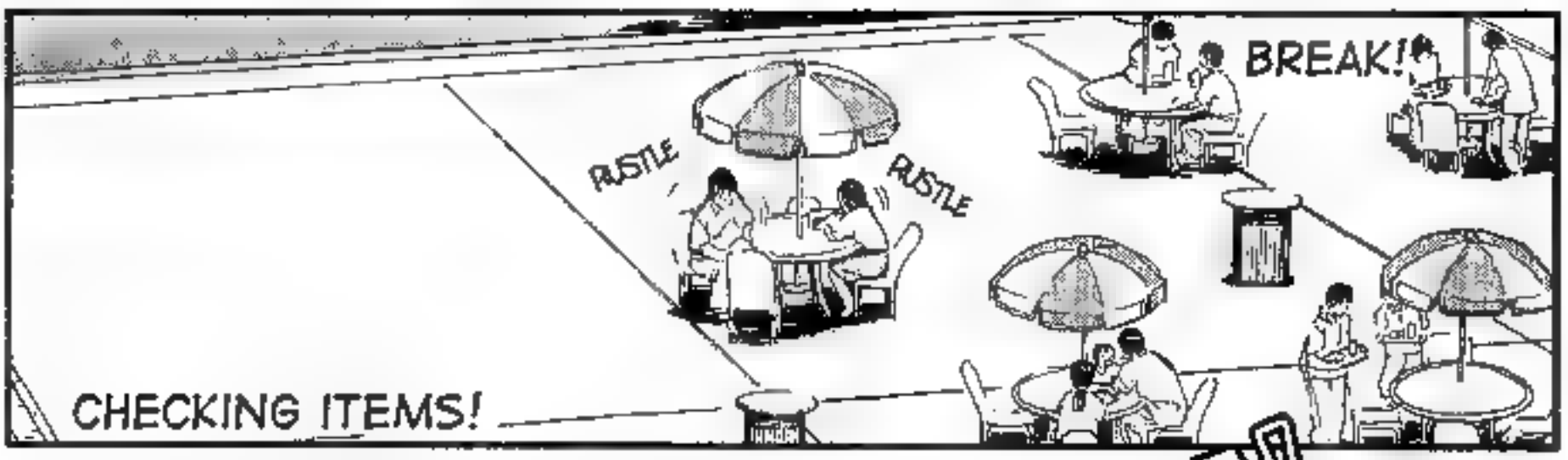
TRYING ON
excited
Is it okay?
OKAY
EXPENSIVE ONE
CHEAP ONE
SHOPPING!
picture book




CHECK
SQUEEZE
HAND!
FISH!
1, 2,
3, 4...

LA LA LA
LA LA~

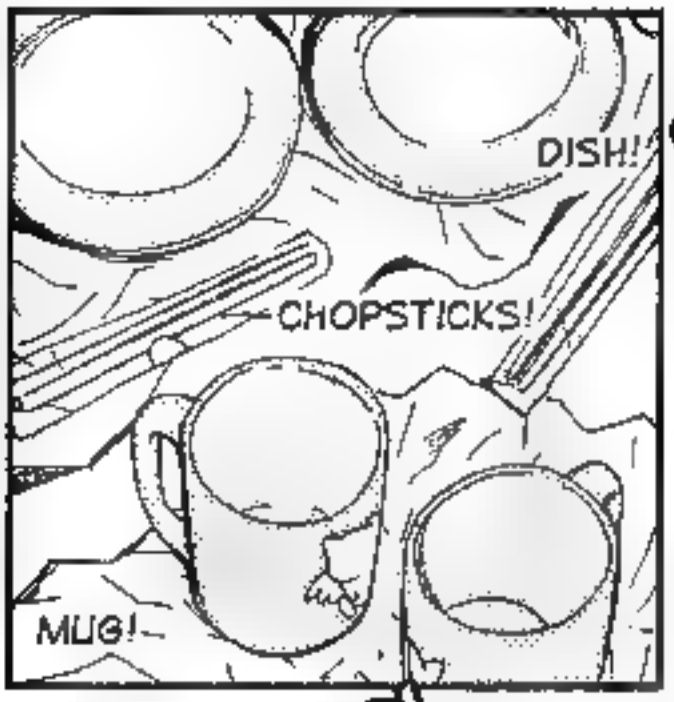
LA LA
LA~

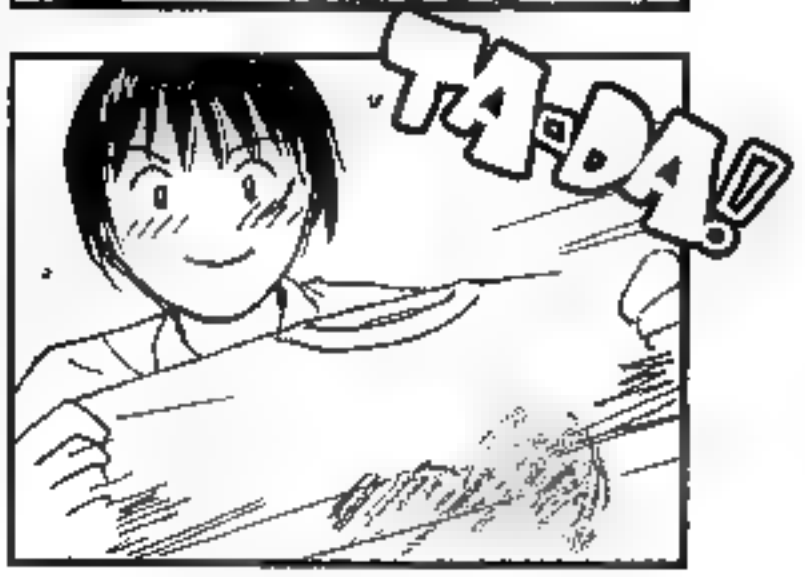



SHA-!

BAM!

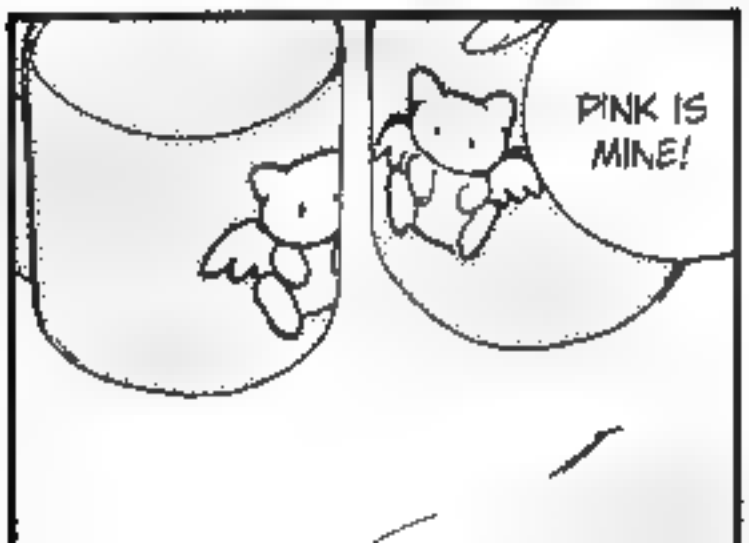
FLASH!





# CLUTTERED

# EXCITED



KISS-
♡

TEE HEE

CHU

CHU-

CHU-

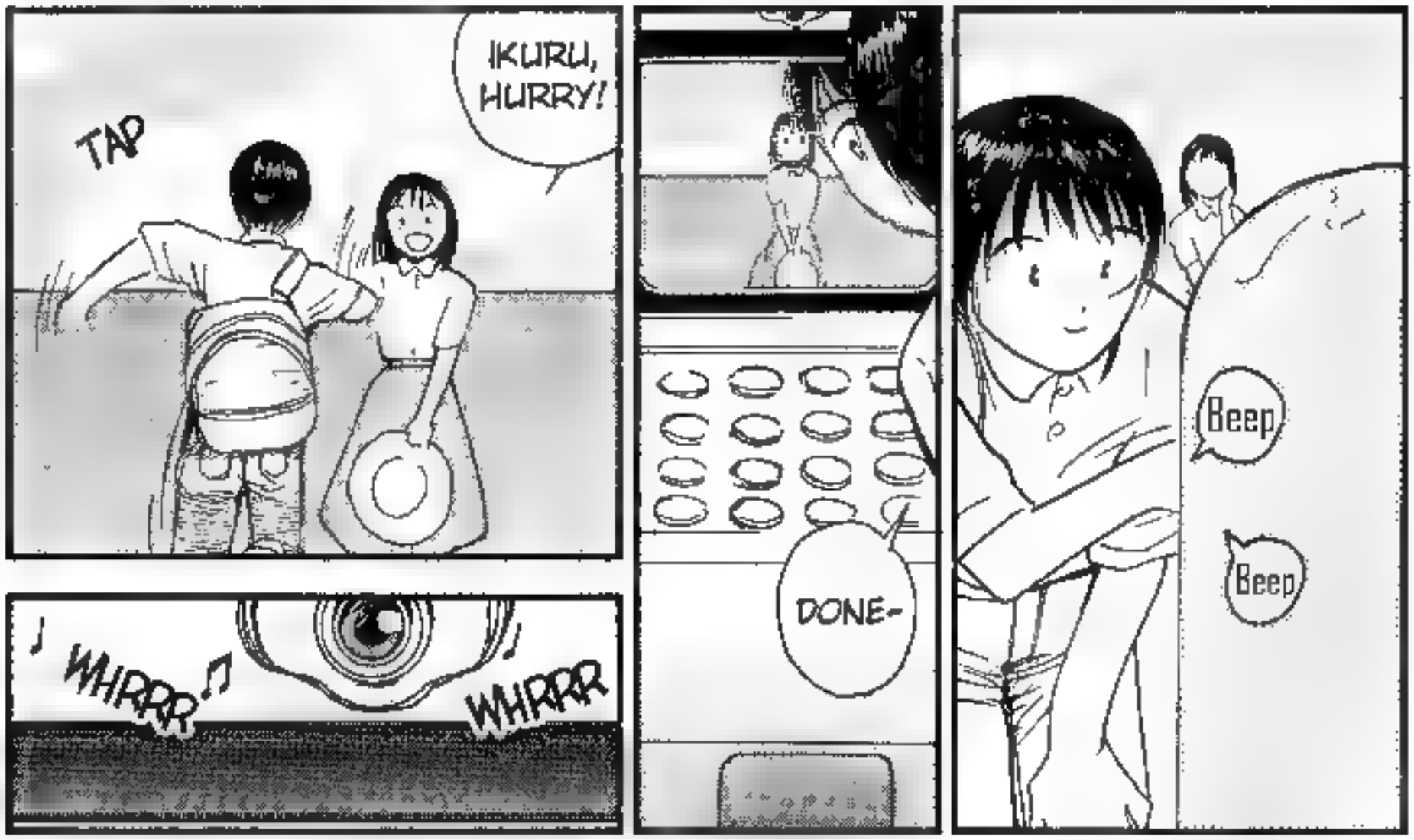
AH, AI!

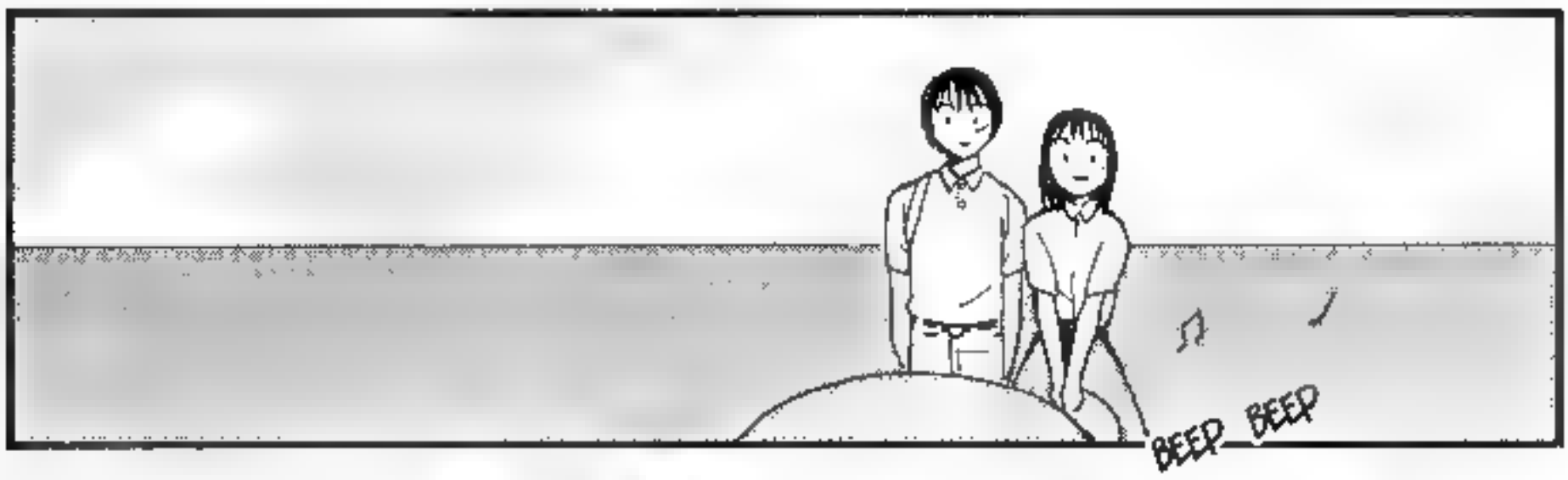
PFT!

CHU-

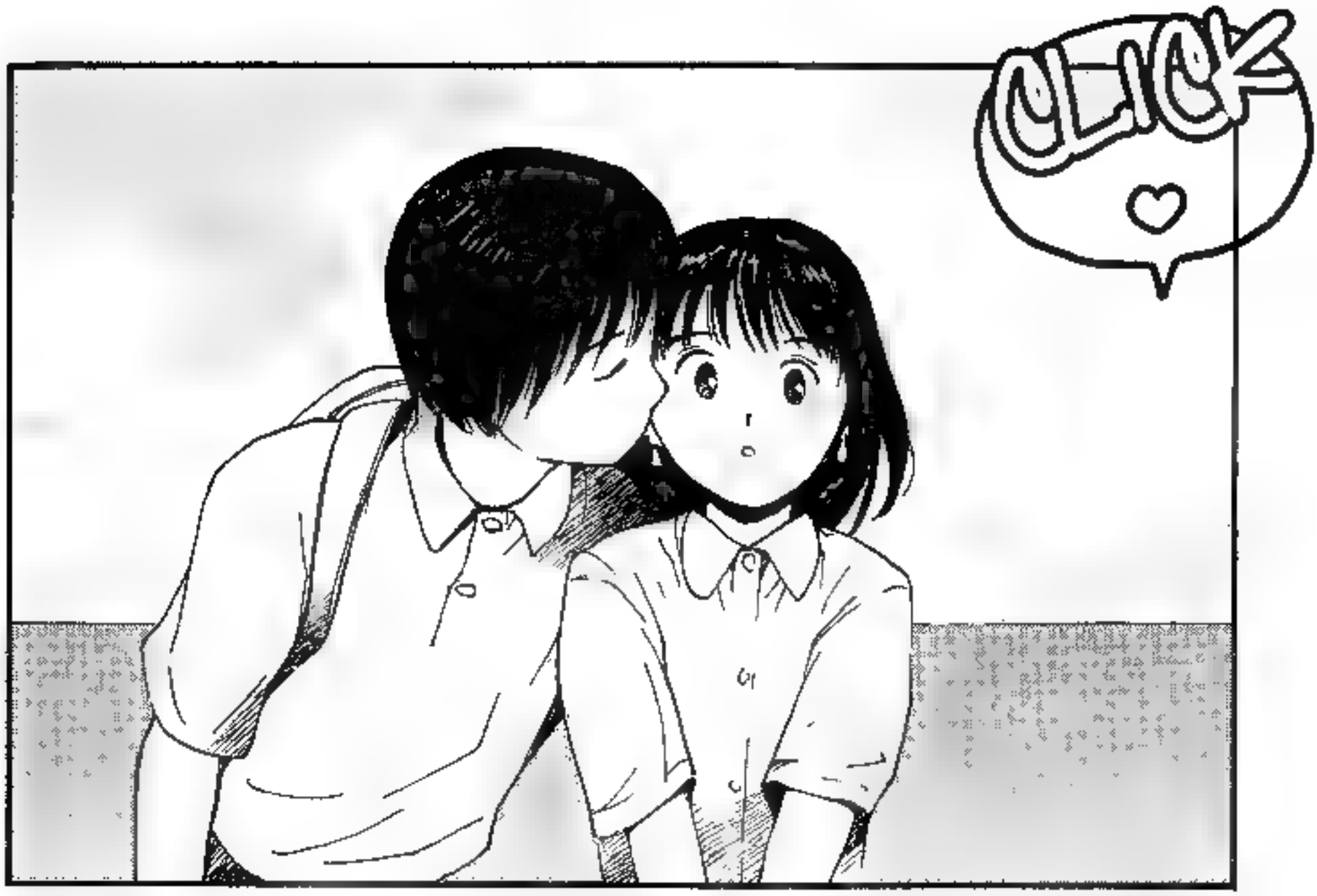
HEE HEE

# 愛人〈AI-REN〉③

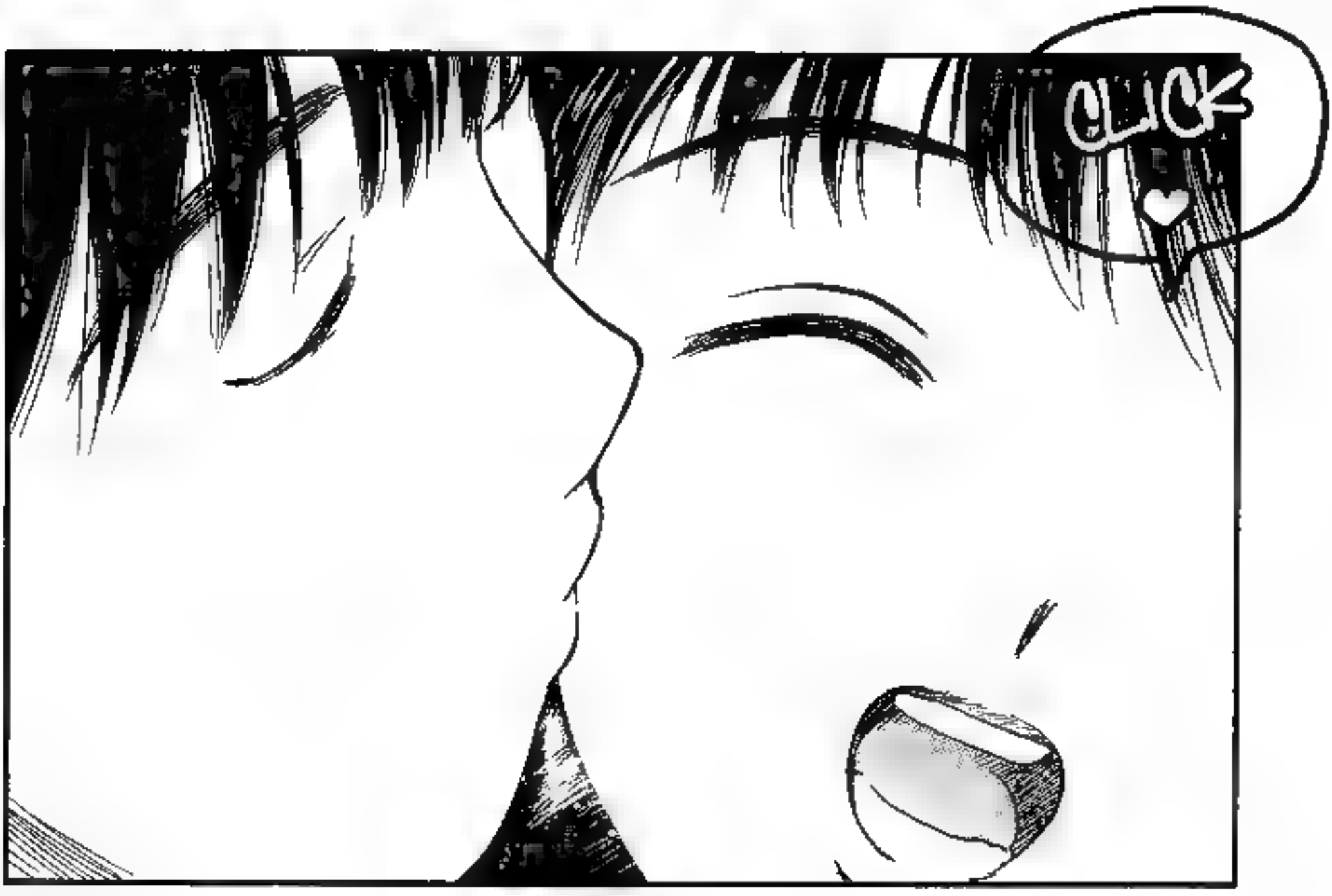

TAP
IKURU, HURRY!
♪ WHIRRR ♫
WHIRRR
DONE-
Beep
Beep


BEEP BEEP

CHANCE!
THUMP
THUMP




SUCCESS~ ♡



CLICK

ON THE WAY HOME, AI TOLD ME THERE WAS ONE MORE THING TO BUY...

CAN I INDULGE MYSELF A BIT?

IT WAS AWKWARD STANDING THERE IN FRONT OF THE COLORFUL LINGERE...

HMM. .

AH... PICK WHATEVER AI LIKES..!

WHICH ONE IS BETTER?

IKURU,

WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE, IKURU?

I PICKED THE CLEAN AND SIMPLE ONE...

THIS ONE

HMM, I ALSO THOUGHT THIS ONE LOOKED BETTER...

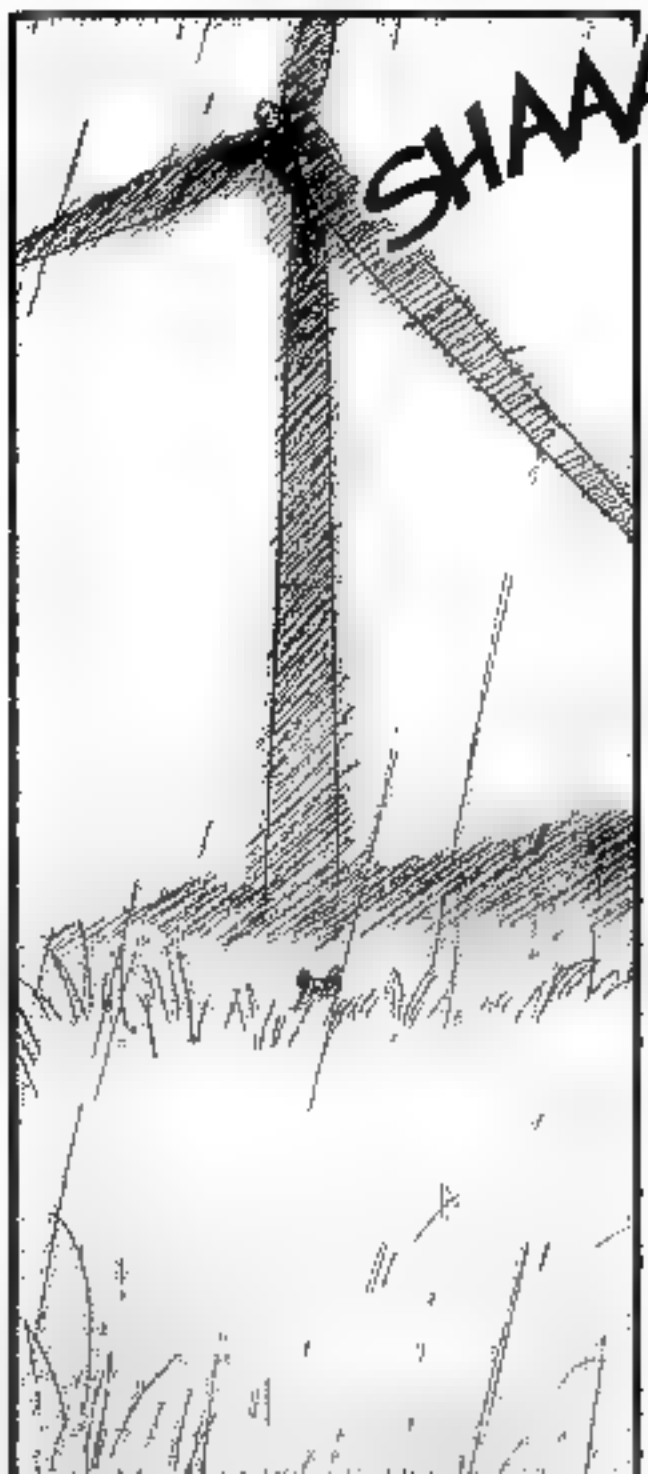
.....

I HAD NEVER SEEN AI WITH THAT EXPRES-SION...

HER FACE AS SHE SHOPPED FOR LINGERE...

THIS... AI WILL WEAR IT AT AN IMPORTANT EVENT..!

OH NO!
HUH?


SHAAAAA

SPLASH
WHOA!
KYAA!
SPLISH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLISH
SPLASH

IT WASN'T ACID RAIN, BUT...

IT WAS SO COLD...

HUH

GO!
GO!
GO!
TOWEL! TOWEL!
SHIVER
SHIVER
BRRR
HUFF ..
SHIVER
SHIVER
HUH-
HUU-
HAH-
SHAA-
I'LL GET THE BATH READY!
ARE YOU OK?!
MM...

# 愛人(AI-REN)③

LUCKY OUR THINGS DIDN'T GET WET!
MM.
SHH
THANK YOU!
MAKE SURE YOUR BODY WARMS UP!
SPLAT
SPLAT
BRR
SLAM
BRRR...
FWIP
BRR, COLD...
THAT'S GREAT!
THE BATH WILL BE HOT SOON, SO TAKE OFF YOUR WET CLOTHES!
SHAAA
ZAA
ZAA

SHAAA
SHAAA
SHAAA
SHAAA
WHEW ...
BRRR
WHOA!
IKURU!

SQUEEZE

Hee ee!

COLD~ COLD~ COLD~

IT'S COLD! ♡

KAKAKA

KAKA

IKURU, IKURU!

HUH?

BRRRR RRR-

SHIVER

BRRR-

AMAZING!

KAKA

KA

TEETH ARE CLATTERING WHEN IT'S COLD!

HUFF PUFF

I'VE NEVER FELT THIS COLD IN MY LIFE!

AH...

THE CHEEK OF DEATH WAS WARM...

SO COLD~

HAA~ NEAT!

POKE

AI...

POKE

AI'S CHEEK IS
ICE COLD...

COME A LITTLE CLOSER...

TODAY WAS REALLY FUN!

MM.

I LOVED IT~

OKAY-♡

LET'S GO ON A DATE AGAIN-♡

[ #21 / End ]

OK, SO VINNY ACTUALLY HAD THIS TL'D LIKE A WEEK AND A HALF AGO. I JUST DECIDED I'D GO BACK AND PLAY A FEW OF MY PSX ISOS ALL LAST WEEK, SO I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING PRODUCTIVE DONE. HA! SERVES YOU LEECHES RIGHT!

-POOKIE

OKAY, I FINISHED THIS CHAPTER WHEN METS LOST... WHICH MAKES ME A LIAR... SO SUE ME. THE REASON I RUSHED TO FINISH THIS CHAPTER IS BECAUSE CH.22-23 ARE FULL OF TECHNICAL TERMS. NOT ONLY I HAVE TO READ PREVIOUS VOLUMES OVER, I MAY NEED TO DIG MY EXPENSIVE DICTIONARY... ("SOB" AT BOOKSTORE CHARGED $85 FOR A STINKIN' DICTIOARY... IT'S SO UNFAIR , ;) IF CHAPTER 22 COMES OUT WITHIN TWO WEEKS, IT IS A MIRACLE PERFORMED BY A GOD, THE MANGA GOD...

-BIGVINNY

solaris

#SOLARIS-SVU@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET

KOREAN MANWHA TRANSLATIONS

#K-MANGA@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET


-=Ai-Ren v03 c21=-

Raws: USC_Gamecocks

Translator: BigVinny

Editor: pOOkie

# 22. Phantom Light

THAT DAY...

THE WORLD SUDDENLY BECAME QUIET AGAIN...

IT WAS THE END OF HUMANITY, THE LAST BATTLE...

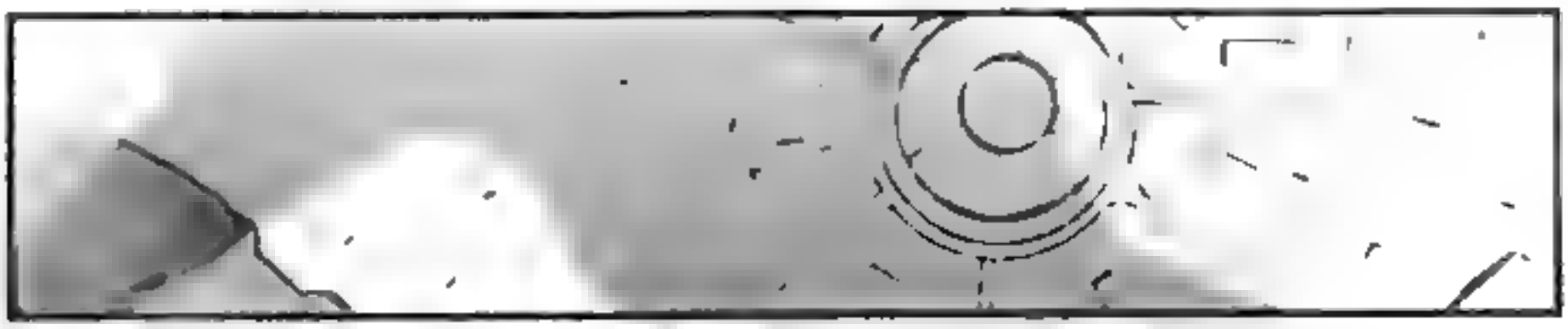
THE SCREAMING PHONES ALL STOPPED AT ONCE...

International Association of the Southern Hemisphere
Emergency Command Center, South Pole

IT MADE OUR SYSTEM SEEM LIKE NOTHING...

THIS SCENE TRULY SURPASSED OUR KNOWLEDGE...

Camalo Carelen
Secretary-General of the IASH



HUMANITY ENCOUNTERED AN ALIEN RACE!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY...

HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL MALE...

WITH A FLAWLESS SMILE ON HIS FACE...

MY NAME IS KILIT, FROM ⇒HITO⇐

WE HAD LOST CONTROL OF EVERY WEAPON ON THE PLANET...

THE LEADERS WHO ONCE TRIED TO RULE HUMANITY HID IN AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER...

BUT WE KNEW ALL TOO WELL...

THE FATE OF HUMANITY RESTED IN HIS HANDS...

ANYWAYS,

SHAKING IN FEAR AT EVERY WORD SPOKEN BY OUR NEW RULER FROM THE SKIES...

ASK YOURSELF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN...

PLEASE THINK OF WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU REALLY ARE...

HE SPOKE OF LOVE...

LOVE AS THE VERY ESSENCE OF BEING HUMAN...

IF YOU CANNOT FORGIVE ANYONE IN THIS WORLD...

YET YOU STILL LOVE SOMEONE... IF YOU NEED TO LOVE SOMEONE...

HE THREW A BIT OF HUMOR IN, BUT...

HIS SPEECH WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO BRING TEARS TO LISTENERS' EYES...

THERE WAS A PECULIAR PASSAGE IN HIS SPEECH...

IF YOU ARE...

PLEASE LOVE ME,

WITHOUT HESITATION.

WHAT..?

HE LAUGHED...

A SMILE I WOULD NEVER FORGET.

IT IS EXACTLY AS I SAID

YOU JUST SPOKE IN YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE

PLEASE DON'T THINK OF IT AS A TERM..

AFTER THAT, HE CALLED HIMSELF...

THOSE ARE THE "EYES" OF THE DRAGONS...

THE LIGHTS GLARING FROM THE OTHER SIDE...

...PHANTOM LIGHTS FROM THE TOP OF THE EARTH...

THEY SEEM LIKE...

AFTER THE FIRST MEETING... HITO HAS YET TO ESTABLISH CONTACT...

INSTEAD...

NEITHER A SIGN OF DESTRUCTION NOR SALVATION...

BOWING TO CONQUER, YET NEITHER GIVING ORDERS NOR MAKING DEMANDS...

...GRADUALLY DISAPPEARED FROM BOTH RADAR AND THE NAKED EYE...

THE DRAGONS FROM THE ENDS OF THE HORIZON...

IT'S DISAPPEARING...

THE BROADCAST RECORD OF KILIT'S SPEECH, AND ANY IMAGES OF IT, ARE ALL LONG GONE...

EVERY PIECE OF EVIDENCE REGARDING HITO'S EXISTENCE HAS DISAPPEARED...

EVERY PERSONAL RECORDING HAS VANISHED...

WAS IT ALL AN ILLUSION?

NO!

HIS IMAGE IS DEEPLY ENGRAVED IN OUR HEARTS...

I AM SURE THAT I MET HIM...

AH,

I'M SORRY...

THE MEETING IS OVER ALREADY...

THERE YOU ARE,

MISS SECRETARY-GENERAL...

IT'S QUIET AS USUAL...

NO, NOT A THING.

WERE THERE ANY PROBLEMS?

SOME "SAVIORS..."

SLURP

REALLY...

ARE KEEPING QUIET...

EVEN THE FOLLOWERS OF HITO...

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT...

THEY WEREN'T ONES THAT WE COULD CAPTURE VISUALLY...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME?

IT'S MY NATIVE LAND'S LIQUOR.

WHAT IS THAT?

ACTING LIKE A NATIONALIST THIS DAY AND AGE, YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING...

IT'S GREAT FOR WHEN YOU'RE FEELING DOWN.

HAHA

HA~

THUMP

THUMP

!!

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN WAY TO KEEP BELIEVING!

THIS IS JUST LIKE PRAY-ING!

MISS SECRETARY-GENERAL,

BUT EVER SINCE THEY APPEARED, EVEN I...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE AND GROUND-LESS...

...FEEL HELPLESS EVERY NOW AND THEN...

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT A SPECIES' LIFE EXPECTANCY?

...HAS OVERCOME A NUMBER OF OBSTACLES THAT THREATENED US WITH EXTINCTION...

UNTIL NOW, HUMANITY...

*ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE,*
*NUCLEAR WEAPONS,*
*CHEMICAL WARFARE,*
*ENERGY SHORTAGES...*

*GENETIC EXPLOITATION,*
*OVERPOPULATION...*

*FAMINE,*
*WAR,*
*DISEASE...*

*HUMANITY HAS OVERCOME EVERY OBSTACLE, SHEDDING SWEAT AND TEARS ALONG THE COURSE OF HISTORY...*

*...AND HAS NEVER FAILED TO PASS THE FUTURE DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATION...*

HUMANITY WAS ABLE TO CREATE HUMAN BEINGS USING AN ARTIFICIAL GENE POOL...

A FEW GENERATIONS AGO, HUMANS LOST THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE NATURALLY...

BUT NOW, HUMANITY FACED A PROBLEM THAT COULD NOT BE SOLVED...

BUT THE POPULATION IS DECLINING STEADILY...

WE BRIEFLY STEPPED INTO SPACE, BUT NOW, WE HANG ONTO LIFE LIKE A CANDLE FLICKERING BEFORE A STRONG WIND...

LIFE EXPECTANCY IS DECREASING, ONLY 70% OF WHAT IT WAS A CENTURY AGO...

THE BODY LOSING ITS ABILITY TO FIGHT OFF DISEASE...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE SEARCHED,

WE COULDN'T FIND THE REASON...

WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?

THERE ARE NO INVENTIONS, NO WORKS OF ART BEING CREATED...

OUR CIVILIZATION REGRESSES EVERY DAY...

AS IF HUMANITY, AS A SPECIES, HAD LOST THE WILL TO LIVE...

AND YET, IN REALITY, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...

THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF A SPECIES...

LIKE INDIVIDUALS, DEATH IS INEVITABLE TO ALL LIFE, EVEN THE SPECIES AS A WHOLE...

THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY...

JUST AS KLIT SAID...

.....

HUMANITY WON'T BE SELF-RELIANT IN A HUNDRED YEARS...

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING NOW,

THE SPECIES CALLED "HUMANS" WILL DISAPPEAR FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH...

AND...

EVER SINCE THE STRANGER CALLED "HITO" APPEARED,

WE HAVE BEGUN TO DOUBT OURSELVES ONCE AGAIN...

THAT HITO JUST MIGHT BECOME...

IT JUST FEELS... CREEPY...

EXACTLY WHAT IS A "HUMAN?"

*WHY WERE WE BORN?*

*WHAT DO WE LEAVE BEHIND..?*

*AN INEVITABLE DEATH WAITING JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY...*

CAN WE END OUR HISTORY WITH DIGNITY?

I HAVE A SON.

THIS MAY NOT BE RELATED BUT...

.....

I WANTED A CHILD...

I WANTED SOMEONE I COULD LOVE MORE THAN MYSELF..!

FOR AWHILE, I THOUGHT THAT...

...EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE WAS POINTLESS...

MAYBE BECAUSE OF MY JOB...

ONE DAY, HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER...

I WANTED A BOY...

SO I COULD TEACH HIM MARTIAL ARTS...

TEACH HIM TO BE BRAVE...

...AND HONOR-ABLE...

BUT,

THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT...

DURING GENETIC MAINTENANCE...

I WOULD BECOME A FATHER ...

I WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR...

# 愛人(AI-REN)③

HE WAS LOVELY...

SINCE HE SURVIVED LONG ENOUGH TO BE BORN..!

NO MATTER WHAT...

I JUST COULDN'T KILL HIM...

PERHAPS THAT WOULD'VE BEEN FOR THE BEST...

I COULD'VE WALKED AWAY, LET HIM DIE...

BUT... NEITHER HIS OTHER GENE DONOR NOR I COULD DO THAT..!

I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO BE A PARENT...

IT MUST'VE BEEN SO HARD FOR HIM...

SLUMP

.....

IT'S OK.

I'M SORRY...

...FOR BABBLING ALL THIS NON-SENSE...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

WHY WERE WE BORN?

I'VE WITNESSED MANY THINGS, FROM BATTLEFIELDS ALL OVER THE WORLD...

HUMAN...

THE ELDERLY, SOAKED IN BLOOD, CURSING AT THE WORLD...

THE DISMEM-BERED BODY OF A BEAUTIFUL CHILD...

A YOUNG SOLDIER DYING A HORRIFIC DEATH FROM AN ANGRY MOB...

COUNTLESS CHILDREN THROWN INTO BURNING STAKES...

I HEARD THEIR VOICES... SMELLED THEIR BODIES...

I VIVIDLY REMEMBER THEIR LAST EXPRESSIONS, SHINING STRANGELY, JUST BEFORE DEATH...

I WITNESSED MANY TIMES, WITH THESE VERY EYES...

At the end of our long history, we humans learned the truth.
Humanity can never achieve salvation.

ASD!

HUH

AH

THAT NIGHT, I HAD A TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE

AH...

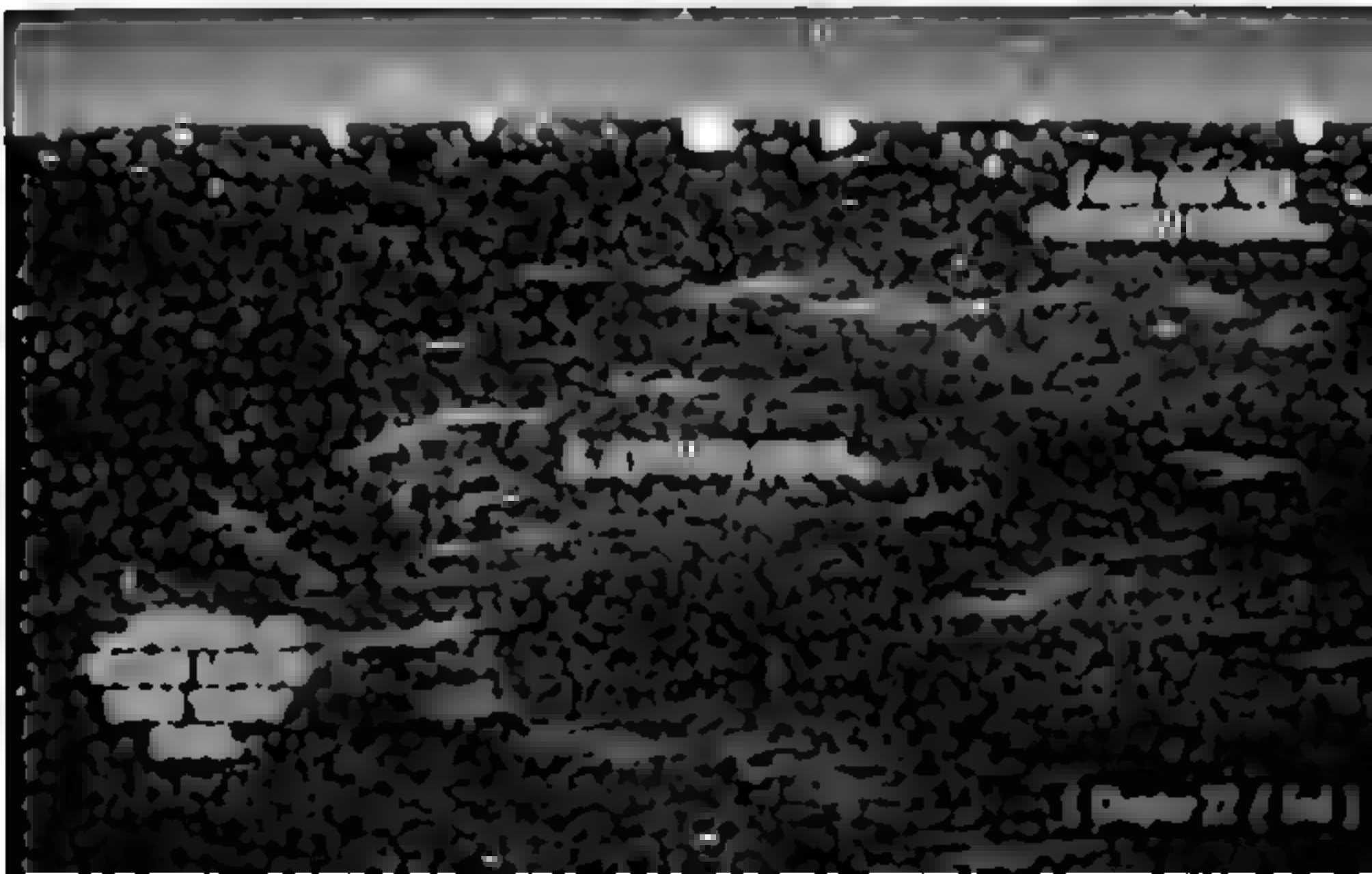
AH...

AH.

KILIT,

DO YOU KNOW WHAT "HUMAN" REALLY MEANS?

DO YOU CALL YOURSELF "HUMAN" BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND?



This chapter made me appreciate NiNiNhA for her effort on Volume 1. It truly made me appreciate how good of a translator she really is. And it reminded me how far I am off from the translation greatness. Bah. Screw it. this is a hobby not something that puts food on my table. (Vinny goes away to read some manga to relieve stress AA. SHOW ME A YORI AOSHI vol. 14 !) Next chapter might take awhile as well.. So don't play monkey on my shoulder. (Vinny stares at JETC-)

BigVinny

solaris

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KOREAN MANWHA TRANSLATIONS

#K-MANGA@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET


-=Ai-Ren v03 c22=-

Raws: USC Gamecocks

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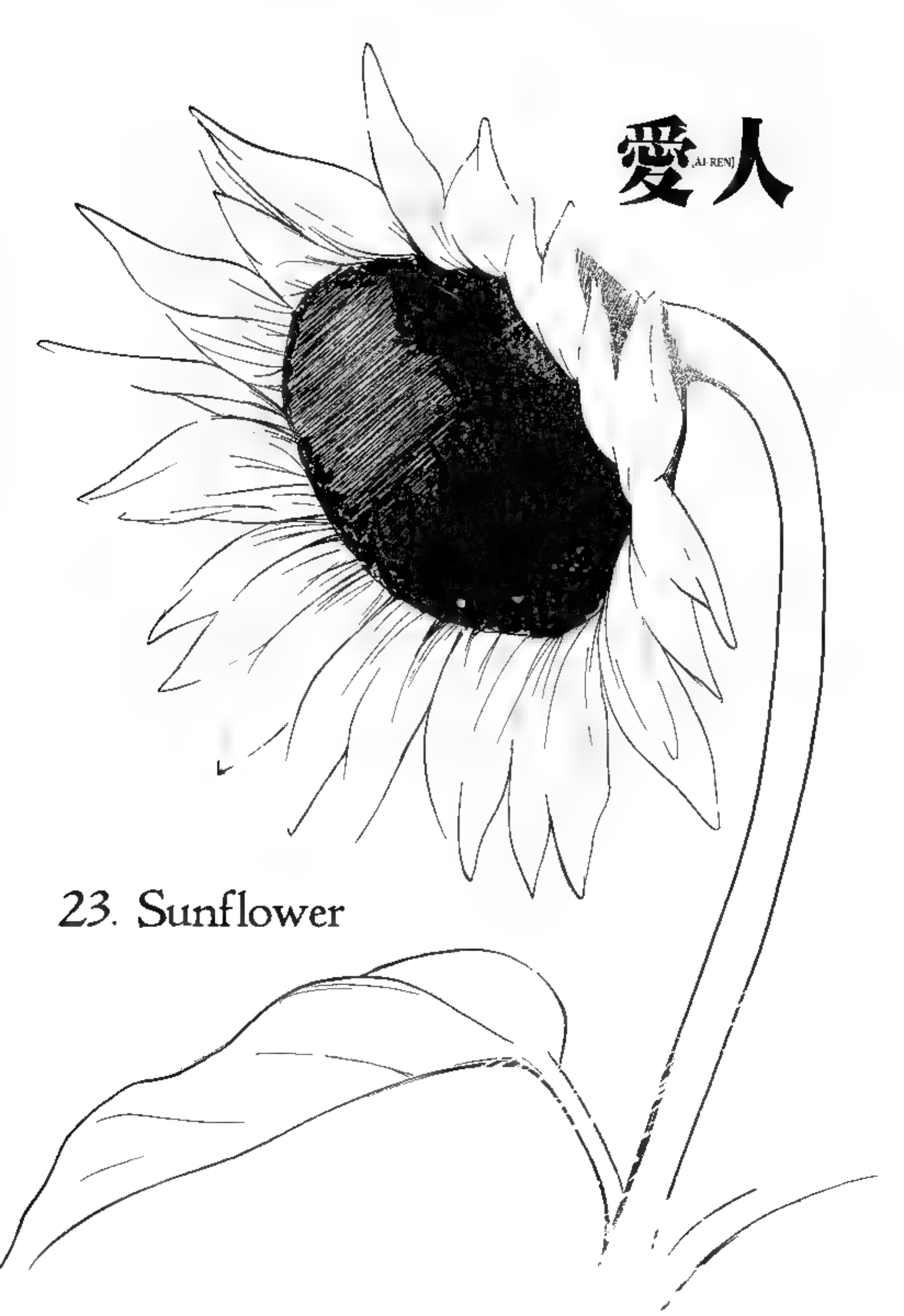



# 23. Sunflower

THIS IS WHERE IKURU MET AI...

I THOUGHT SENSEI SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE...

"AI-REN..." THE PAST HISTORY OF AGHRMS MUST REMAIN SECRET...

...TO PRESERVE SOME SENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS...

IN OTHER WORDS, NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THEIR PAST ANYMORE.

THAT'S JUST HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS.

CHECK.

BEEP

WIPING OUT THE ORIGINAL PERSONA, CHEMICALLY IMPRINTING A NEW ONE, DISTRIBUTION, EVERYTHING IS DONE AUTOMATICALLY BY MACHINE...

YOU CAN'T FIND THE RECORD, AND EVEN IF YOU COULD, IT WOULD BE UNREADABLE.

...AN AI-REN...

...NOR DO I KNOW THE REASON WHY IT BECAME...

...I DON'T KNOW THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF YOSHIZUMI IKURU'S AI-REN.

THAT'S WHY...

FORCED OUT OF SOCIETY, THE VERY RECORD OF THEIR EXISTENCE DESTROYED FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT REASON...

THEY WERE GIVEN A FRESH START TO LIVE AS AN AI-REN...

PERHAPS TRAGIC, BUT...

EVEN FOR YOU, SENSEI, THIS IS A BIT STRANGE.

YET HERE YOU ARE, TRYING TO DIG UP THEIR PAST...

HU-

HUH

SENSEI...

SENSEI SHOULD KNOW QUITE WE..L...

AND ON TOP OF THAT, THE DECISION WAS NOT ONE THEY THEMSELVES MADE...

THEY BECAME AI-REN UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IN THE END, THEY NEVER SHOULD HAVE LIVED...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HOW LONG *HAS* SHE BEEN HERE? I CAN'T REMEMBER...

THE "GROUNDSKEEPER" WORKED HERE FOR SO LONG, SO HE SHOULD REMEMBER EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM...

EH?

YOU MEAN YOSHIZUMI IKURU'S AI-REN?

THAT IS STRANGE...

HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN HERE?

THAT GIRL...

...WAS COMPLETELY ERASED.

THE DATA FROM THE WE..FARE DEPART-MENT...

I'M NOT LYING!

IT WAS RATHER MEMO-RABLE...

I DO RECALL THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM...

THIS IS ODD...

HMM... HOW DID THAT HAPPEN..?

*A SCORCHING HOT DAY, YET HE DIDN'T SHED A SINGLE DROP OF SWEAT...*

*WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM,*

BZZT

BZZT

*FOR ONE THING, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME AN AI-REN APPLICANT CAME IN PERSON...*

BZZT

*IT SENT A CHILL DOWN MY SPINE...*

THAT WAS MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF HIM...

A PREMONITION OF "AH, THIS PERSON IS DYING..."

IF YOU'VE WORKED HERE AS LONG AS I HAVE, A GLIMPSE IS ALL YOU NEED...

I BROUGHT HIM HERE TO SEE...

BECAUSE HE PLEADED SO MUCH...

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS AGAINST REGULATIONS,

WHICH IS WHY...

...ALMOST AS IF HE HAD BEEN REBORN...

HIS FACIAL EXPRESSION CHANGED...

AND THEN...

.....

STANDING THERE IN FRONT OF HER,

BLINK

SAMPLE
"Ai..."

SHHH

ISN'T THIS JUST COWARDICE..?

WHRR

THAT'S RIGHT

WHIRL

WHY...

...AM I DOING THIS?

WHIR

BEGIN ASSEM-BLY.

IF IT IS AN ARTIFICIAL HUMAN'S DNA, THEN NAGI'S ASSEMBLING ABILITY SHOULD REVEAL SOME CLUE...

WHIRRR

WHIRL

I, MYSELF, AM HESI-TATING...

WHAT GOOD WILL KNOWING AI'S IDENTITY DO?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE?

REAS-SEMBLE-

ENLARGE THE IMAGE-

BEEP

INCON-CLUSIVE?

BEEP

...PARTED...

HE AND I HAVE ALREADY

<WHIRL>

IKURU...

WHAT KIND OF A PERSON DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH..?

AI'S BLOOD

IS IT REAL? OR IS IT FAKE..?

WHAT IS THIS TORN FEELING IN MY HEART..?

THEN WHY?

...IKURU LOVES...

THE ONE WHO...

...IS AI.

!!

!!

!!

!!

SLIP

AH-

CRASH

KYAAAAA!

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP-

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

.....

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW..?

AHH

THUMP

THUMP

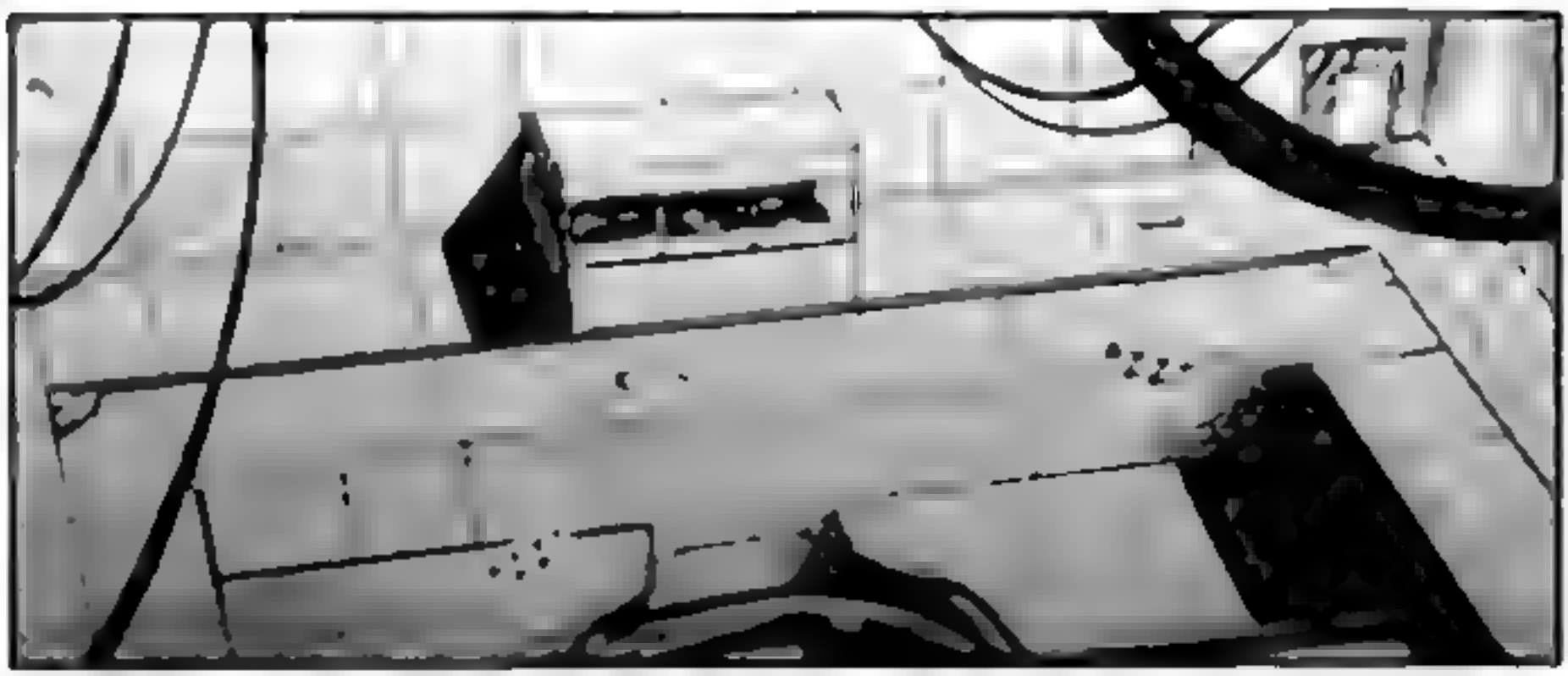
HAH

.....

BEEP

HA

HA



WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE RESEARCH CENTER?

LONG TIME NO SEE, MISS NAGI.

...REGARDING BODY PARTS TRANSPLANTED INTO YOSHIZUMI IKURU.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HAND OVER ANY AND ALL DATA...

CHIEF,

YOU HAVEN'T AGED ONE BIT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

HAVE YOU FOUND A WAY TO SAVE IKURU FROM ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING?

THE DONATED PARTS? WHY DO YOU ASK?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

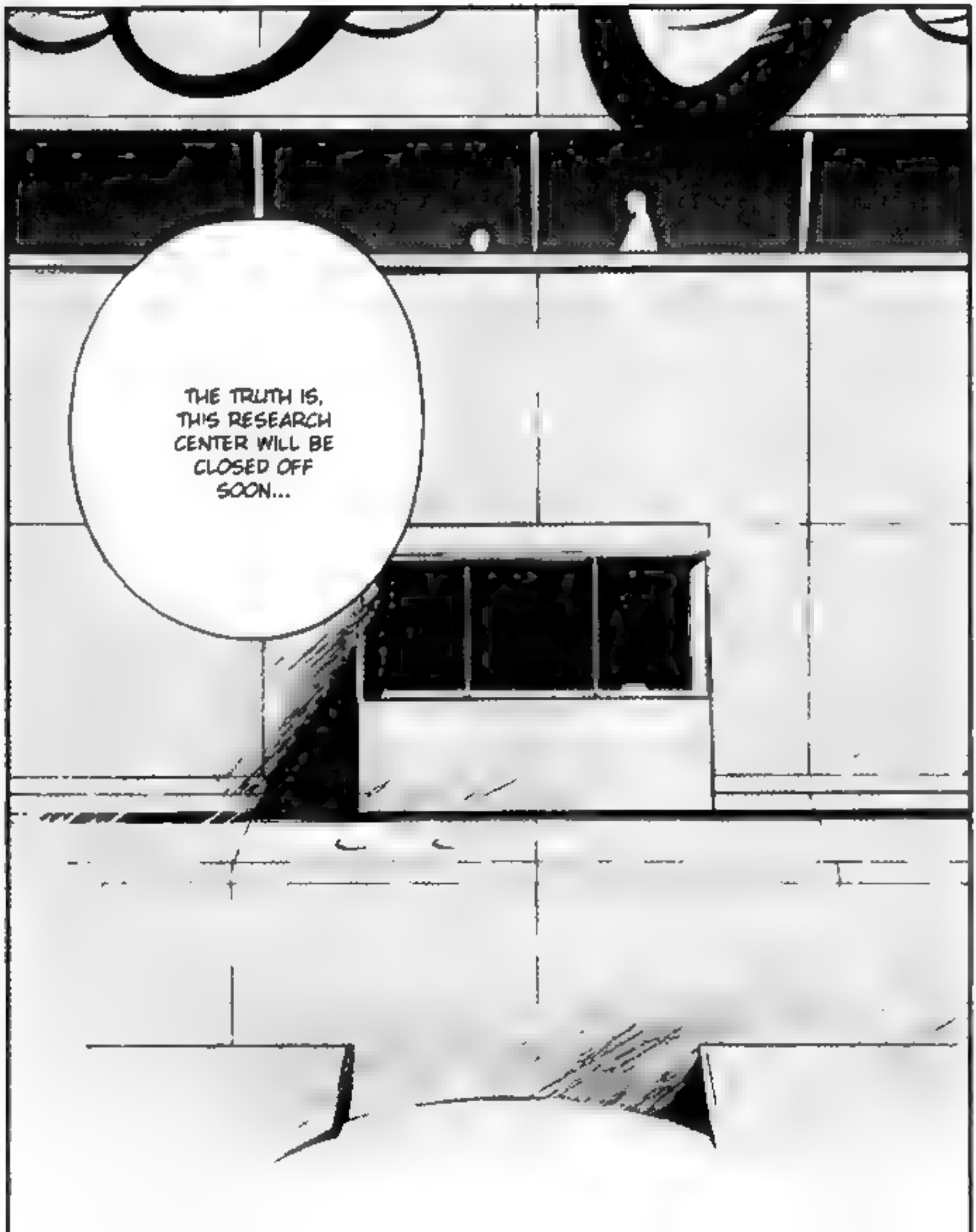
THAT'S NOT IT...

NO...

JUST THAT...

HOWEVER...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE KEEP IT OR NOT
I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT-EVER WE HAVE.
WELL, I UNDER-STAND.


THE TRUTH IS, THIS RESEARCH CENTER WILL BE CLOSED OFF SOON...

THERE'S NO MORE FUNDING COMING IN...

THE REPUTATION OF BEING THE ORIGINAL NAGI-AFFILIATED FACILITY MEANS NOTHING...

OUR RESEARCH THEME IS NO LONGER IMPORTANT IN THIS ERA.

OVERCOMING MORTALITY...

BEING A SPECIES WITH LIMITED LONGEVITY...

...IT WAS THE LAST HUMAN DREAM.

EVERYTHING WAS IN VAIN...

WE BELIEVED THIS RESEARCH WOULD SAVE HUMANITY...

NEW HUMANS, THE ABILITY TO CREATE...

...THE NEXT GENERATION WITH OUR OWN HANDS...

IN THE END, WE FAILED... EVERYONE GAVE UP...

WHAT HAVE WE SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR..?

THERE, WE EXPERIMENTED ON CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY...

THAT'S RIGHT... THE COLONY WHERE THE ACCIDENT OCCURED...

EVEN NOW, I'M SURE OF IT...

SOMETHING MUST HAVE TRIGGERED IT...

IKURU WAS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THAT ACCIDENT...

REPAIRED BODY... EXTENDED LIFESPAN...

THAT *SOMETHING* INSIDE OF HIM...

YOU DIDN'T BECOME IKURU'S TEACHER OUT OF KINDNESS...

THAT SOMETHING IS THE REASON YOU APPROACHED IKURU...

MISS NAGI?

DON'T YOU AGREE,

YOUR MOTIVE WAS INTRIGUE, JEALOUSY, ANGER AT A FUTURE WITHOUT YOU!

YOU WANTED TO KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE... ABOUT THE FUTURE NOT GRANTED TO THE PERFECT HUMANS, THE SIXES...

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID.

YOU'RE FINALLY TELLING THE TRUTH.

HAHA HA!

IS THAT SO? WELL,

TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF

TAP

AH.

WAIT A SECOND!

SO,

I GUESS WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE..

I GUESS SO.

HE MAY NOT HAVE REALIZED IT, BUT...

*ALL OF US...*

*...TRULY CHERISHED HIM...*

...IS HE HAPPY NOW?

ABOUT IKURU...

I CAME HERE TO FIND SOMEONE THAT I COULD VENT MY ANGER AT...

INSTEAD, I FOUND...

AS VINNY SAID, THAT WAS THE LAST CHAP OF VOL3 IN THE KOREAN VERSION, BUT IN TERMS OF RELEASES, WE'LL BE GOING WITH THE JAPANESE VOLUME NUMBERING. LAST VOL WAS FINALLY OUT, GOOD NEWS FOR AI-REN FANS EVERYWHERE. ON A SIDE NOTE, THIS CHAP MADE ME FEEL REALLY BAD FOR SENSE , SHE DESERVES A HAPPY ENDING.

-POOKIE

THE LAST CHAPTER OF VOL.3 (KOREAN EDITION) IS FINALLY DONE. SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE DELAY? WELL, I HAD SUMMER BREAK WHICH I SPENT ON DOING HOUSE CHORES. OKAY, OKAY, I MOSTLY DID NOTHING BUT WATCHING THE OLYMPICS. YEAH I'M SUCKER FOR THE OLYMPICS. ^^ I SWORE TO MYSELF TO GET THIS CHAPTER FINISHED BY 9/1/04. BUT A LITTLE GAME CALLED "STAR OCEAN: TILL THE END OF TIME" CAME OUT AND IT SUCKED MY LIFE AWAY (X_X) ANYWAY, VOL 4 WILL START SOON. AND IN CASE YOU ARE WONDERING, LONG DELAYED VOL.5 (2 YEARS IN THE MAKING, FINAL VOLUME) WILL BE OUT IN JAPAN BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. REJOICE!

-BIGVINNY

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-=Ai-Ren v03 c23=-
Raws: USC Gamecocks
Translator: BigVinny
Editor: pOOkie

# 愛人 [AI-REN]

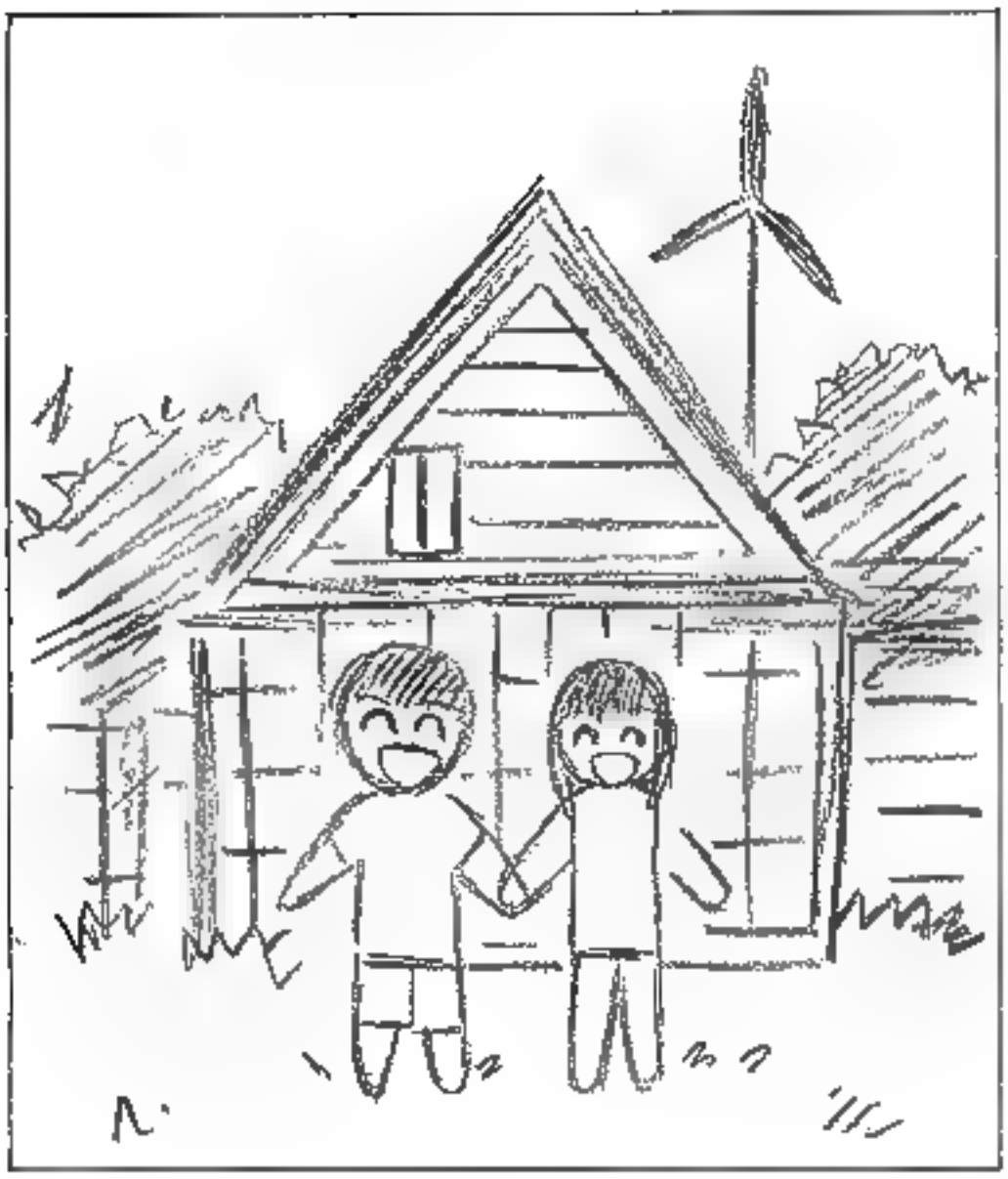
#24. Ai's Picture Diary II
~with who she loves~

I was born someplace different from here.

I looked different. I was something lonely and a bit scary.

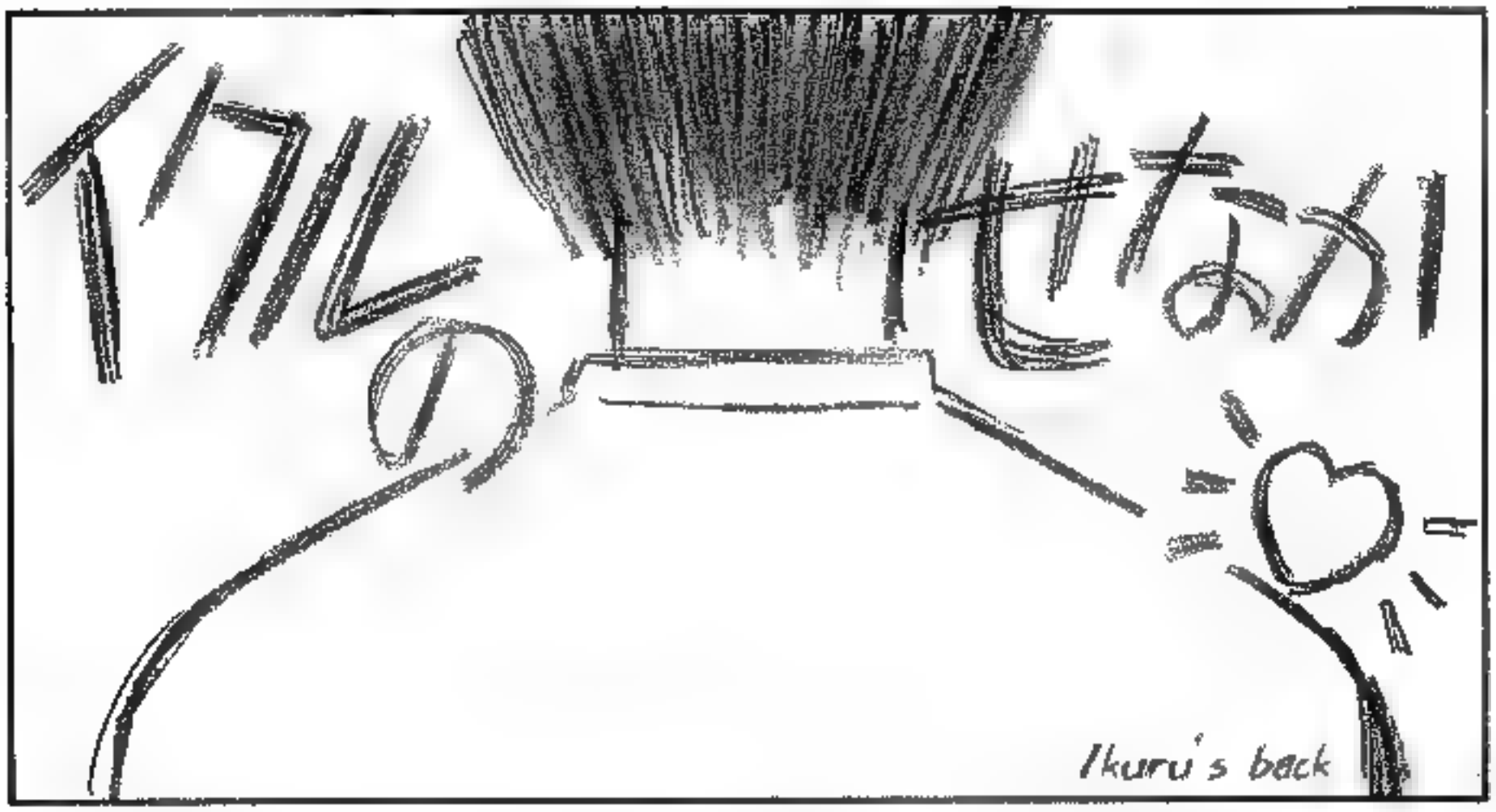
But I became A.

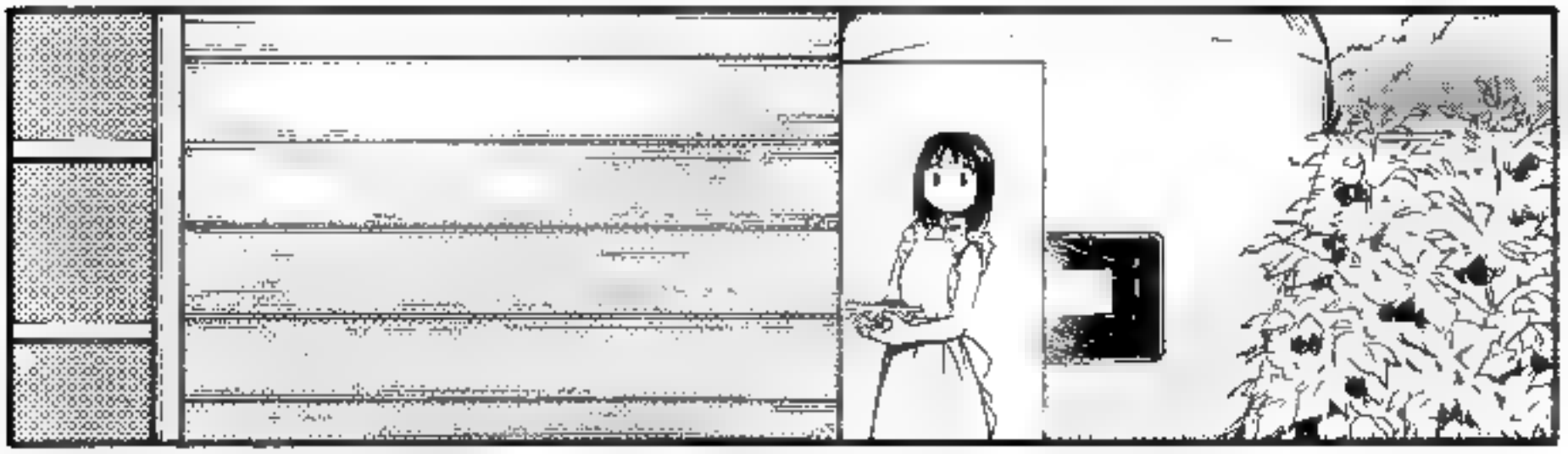
A is very happy now.

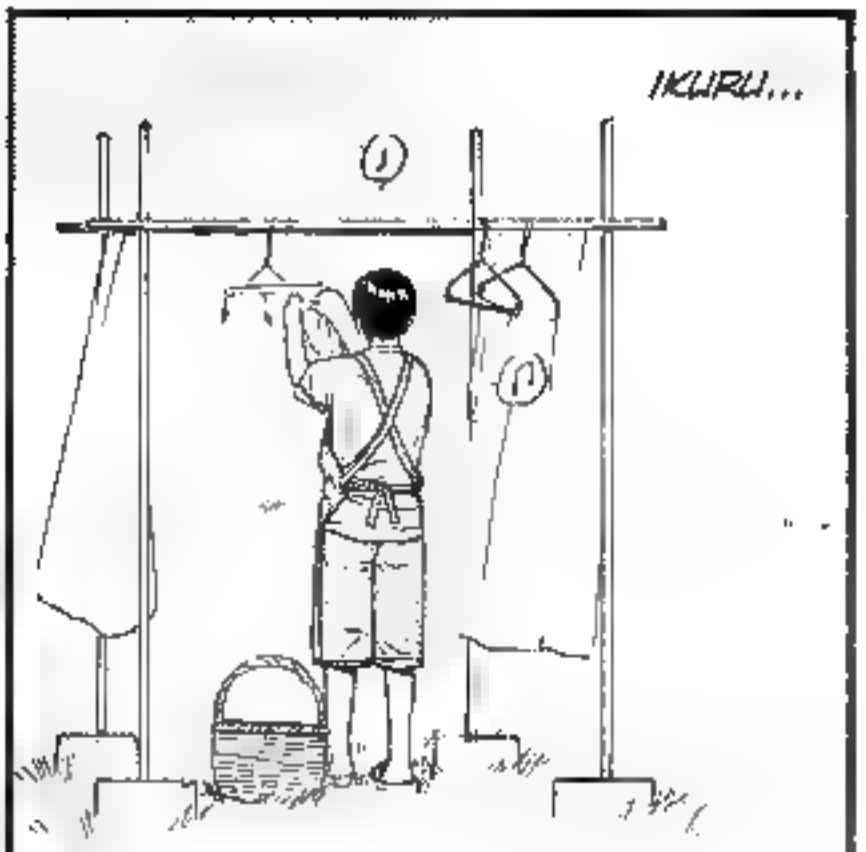


Being with someone I love.

A will be with him together until the end.





UNGUARDED...
♡

IKURU'S BACK FEELS GOOD... ♡

AI LIKES IKURU'S BACK... ♡

SNEAK

SNEAK

THE KIND OF BACK THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO HUG IT....

THAT'S WHY...!!

TIPTOE

SNEAK

EEP!!

WAH! ♡

AI!

IKURU! ♡

GRAB

ACK!

ACK!

ACK!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

SLIDE

OOH!

AH...

AH...

SQUEEZE

AHH!

WHAT IS IT ALL OF A SUDDEN..?

THAT'S DANGEROUS...

MMM~

IKURU'S BACK IS BIGGER, WARMER, AND WIDER THAN AI'S...

...AND VERY HAPPY...

IKURU-

IT FEELS SO SOFT...

WHEN THAT WARM BACK IS PRESSED AGAINST AI'S CHEST...

EH?

SLIDE

GOOD NIGHT. ♡

THE WARMTH OF THE SUN...

...IKURU'S SCENT...

...OF DIRT, AND...

THE SMELL OF GRASS...

FOR A NAP... ♡

AI?

ARE YOU REALLY...

USING IKURU'S BACK AS A BED...

a cat came...

DID YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES?

IKURU,

AI...

ENTRY POINT

I WAS DRENCHED IN CURRY...

DID YOU GET BURNED?

I'M OK.

THE HOUSE IS A MESS...

IT'S OVER THERE

WHAT'S IT DOING NOW?

.....

IT MUST'VE BEEN HUNGRY...

LOOK HOW FAST IT'S DRINKING THE MILK!

SLURP

SLURP

SLURP

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING SIMPLE FOR DINNER THEN...

I LOCKED THE KITCHEN AREA...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A REAL CAT! ♡

YEAH...

SLURP

SLURP

.....

.....

AH! IT SAW US!

SMACK

FLINCH

BUT... WHERE DID IT COME FROM? THERE AREN'T ANY...

WAG

WAG

I DON'T THINK IT HAS ANYWHERE TO GO!

IT'S STILL TOO YOUNG, AND I THINK IT HURT ITS LEG...

IT'S TOO CRUEL TO JUST CHASE IT AWAY...

WHAT?!

IKURU!

LET'S RAISE IT!

LET'S KEEP IT!

THAT'S FOR PUPPIES...

PLEASE-

AI WILL WALK IT!

WHISPER

WHISPER

BUT HOW DO WE RAISE IT?

HERE, KITTY KITTY...

NYA~

ME~OW

AH, AI!

OK?

LET'S BE FRIENDS!

DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN STAY!

AREN'T YOU A NICE KITTY...

NYAN~

THERE, THERE...

THERE THERE

THUMP THUMP

AH!

WAIT FOR ME!

THE REAL CAT FELT SO FLUFFY...

SO CUTE~

HOP

SWACK!

OW...

HM?

tap tap tap tap

AH!!

!KURU!!

AHHH-!

IT DISAPPEARED, JUST LIKE THAT...

WE NEVER SAW IT AGAIN...

KITTY

AND GIVEN IT LOTS OF TASTY FOOD TO EAT...

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD'VE LET IT FINISH THE MILK FIRST...

Masterp'ece

...THAT I COULDN'T PLAY JUST A DAY AGO...

WHEN I PRACTICE, I LEARN TO PLAY THINGS...

PRACTICING THE PIANO IS FUN...

HAPPY!

HAPPY!

I SURPRISE EVEN MYSELF!

BUT, THE PEOPLE WHO PLAYED, WROTE, AND DREW THOSE THINGS...

...ARE NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD...

AI LIKES TO LISTEN TO MUSIC, READ BOOKS, AND LOOK AT DRAWINGS...

...MAKES AI HAPPY, AND LEAVES AI IN AWE!

WHAT THOSE PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND...

♪

♪

♫

THOSE THINGS ARE AMAZING...

# なかまきのトマト もうすこしのおわかれ

Aged Tomato, Goodbye

1

OUR FAMOUS OLD TOMATO PLANT HAS BEEN LOOKING LIFELESS LATELY...

IT'S SIMPLY TIME FOR US TO PART WAYS...

EVERY MORNING IT GREETED US AND TALKED TO US...

IT BORE TASTY FRUITS FOR US...

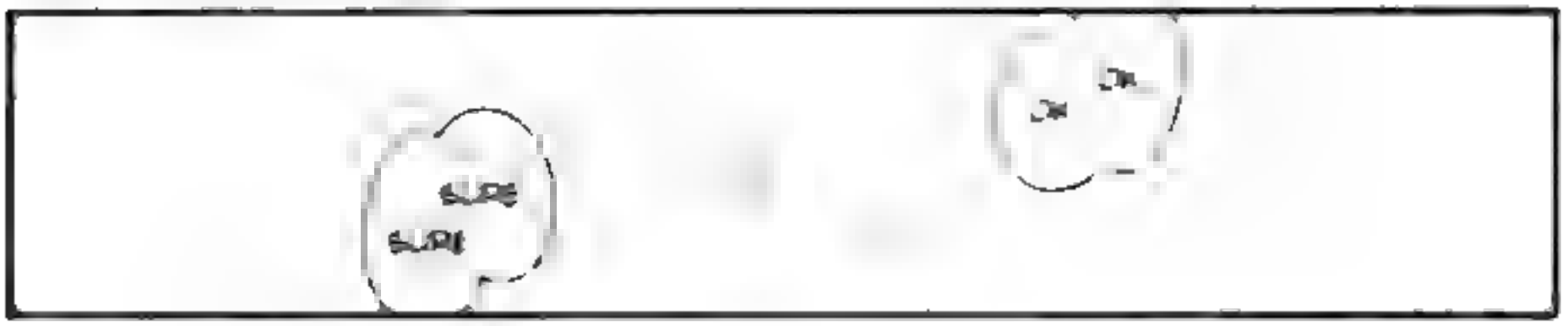
IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL...

IT NO LONGER BEARS ANY FRUIT, AND ITS LEAVES HAVE LOST THEIR COLOR...

BUT, THE PROBLEM ISN'T A DISEASE OR ANY-THING...

IT DOESN'T RESPOND EVEN WHEN I PET IT.

BUT NOW, IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE...




IKURU... AND AI...
WILL ALSO DISAPPEAR SOON...

AI DREW THIS WHEN IKURU AND AI WERE SUFFERING THE MOST

BUT AI WAS AFRAID... SAD... UPSET...

KURU HELD ME TIGHTLY...

AND TOLD AI THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

AI WAS BEING BAD...

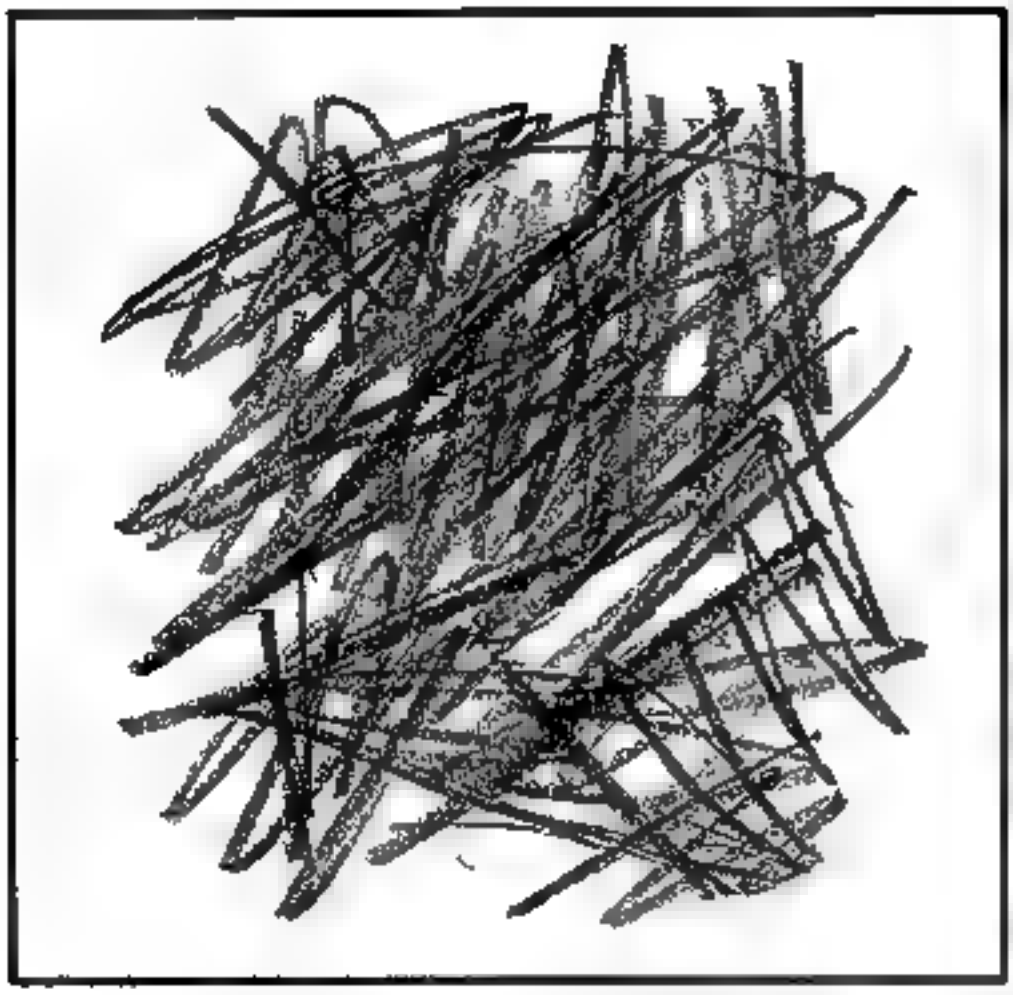
AI WAS CRYING ALL ALONE...

AI HATED EVERYTHING...

...REALLY HATED EVERYTHING...

...EVEN HATED IKURU...

AI IS IKURU'S...
AI-REN...



AI-REN...

A PERSON RESURRECTED INTO SOMEONE ELSE TO COMFORT IKURU...

AI FEELS...

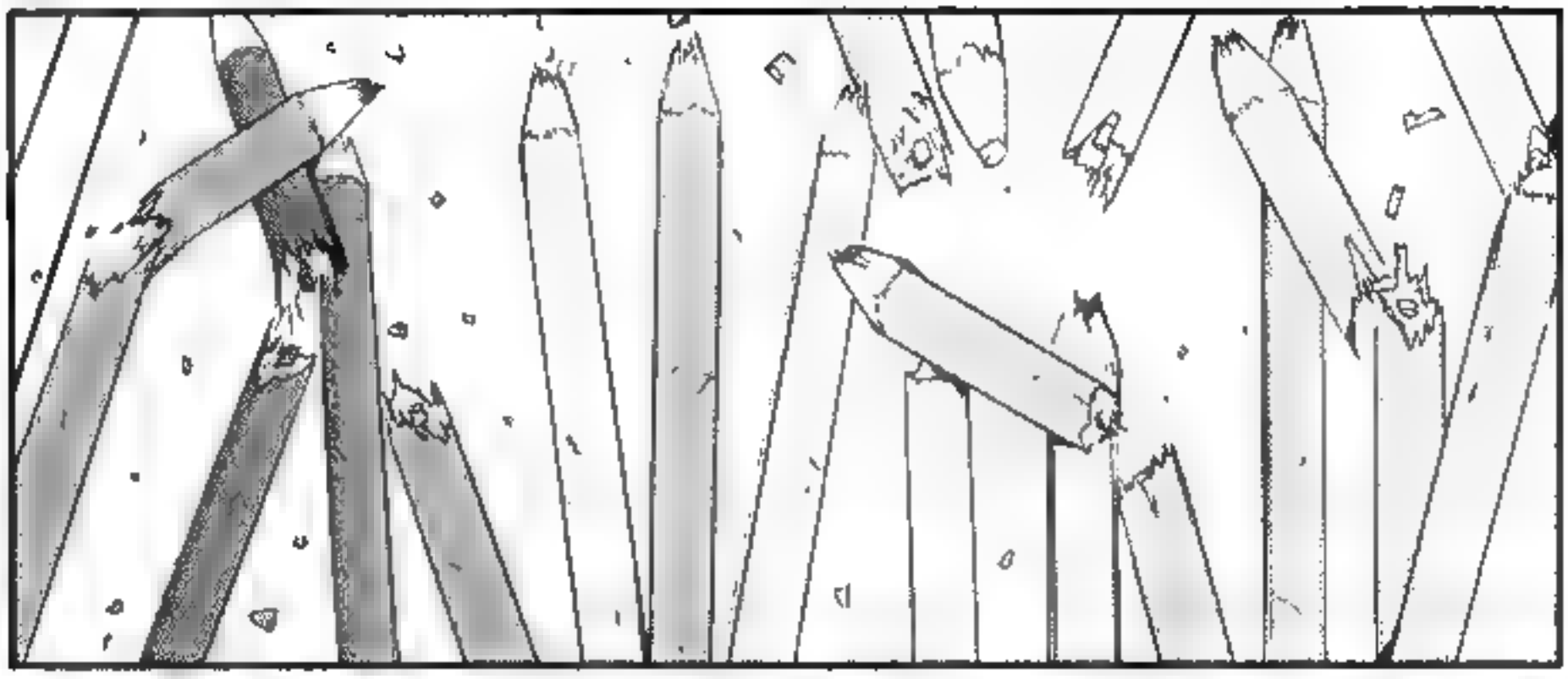
ASHAMED!
ASHAMED!
ASHAMED!

WAAAAAH!

WAAA!

I HATE IT...

...HATE IT...



EVEN IF I WAS COMFORTED, IT DIDN'T MATTER...

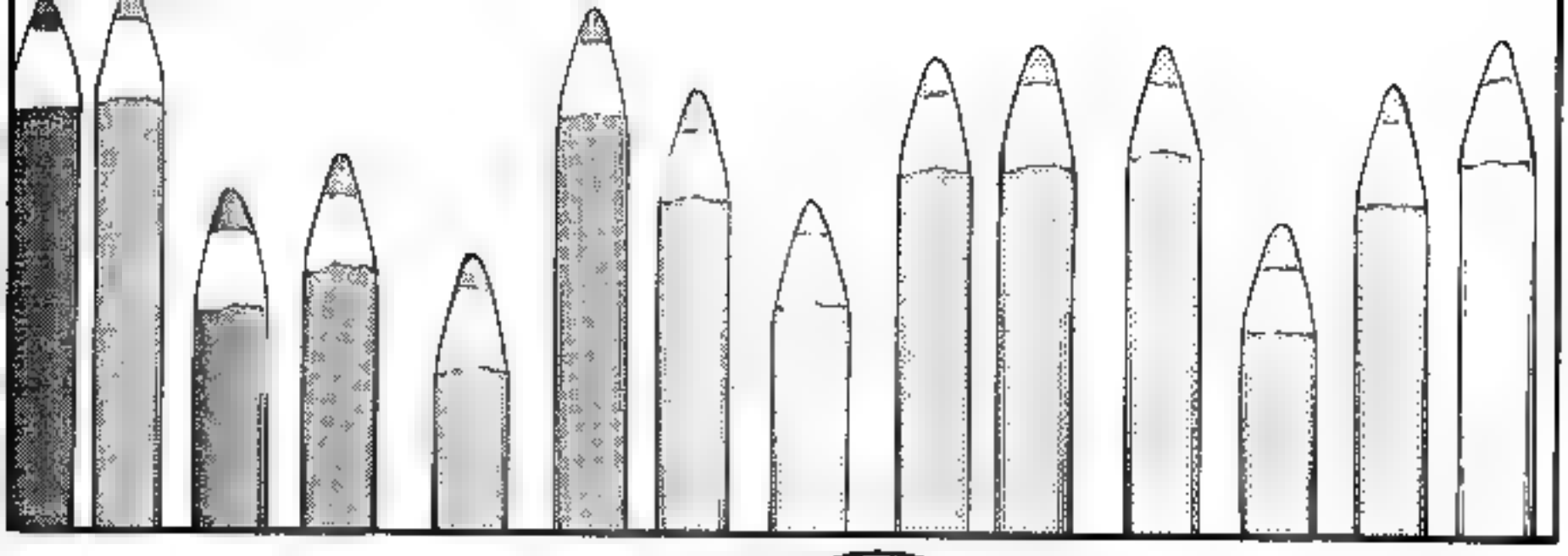
I CRIED...

I WAS ANGRY...

I WAS HURT...

AND I HURT HIM...

THEN, ONE DAY, THE PAIN WENT AWAY...
AND THEN...

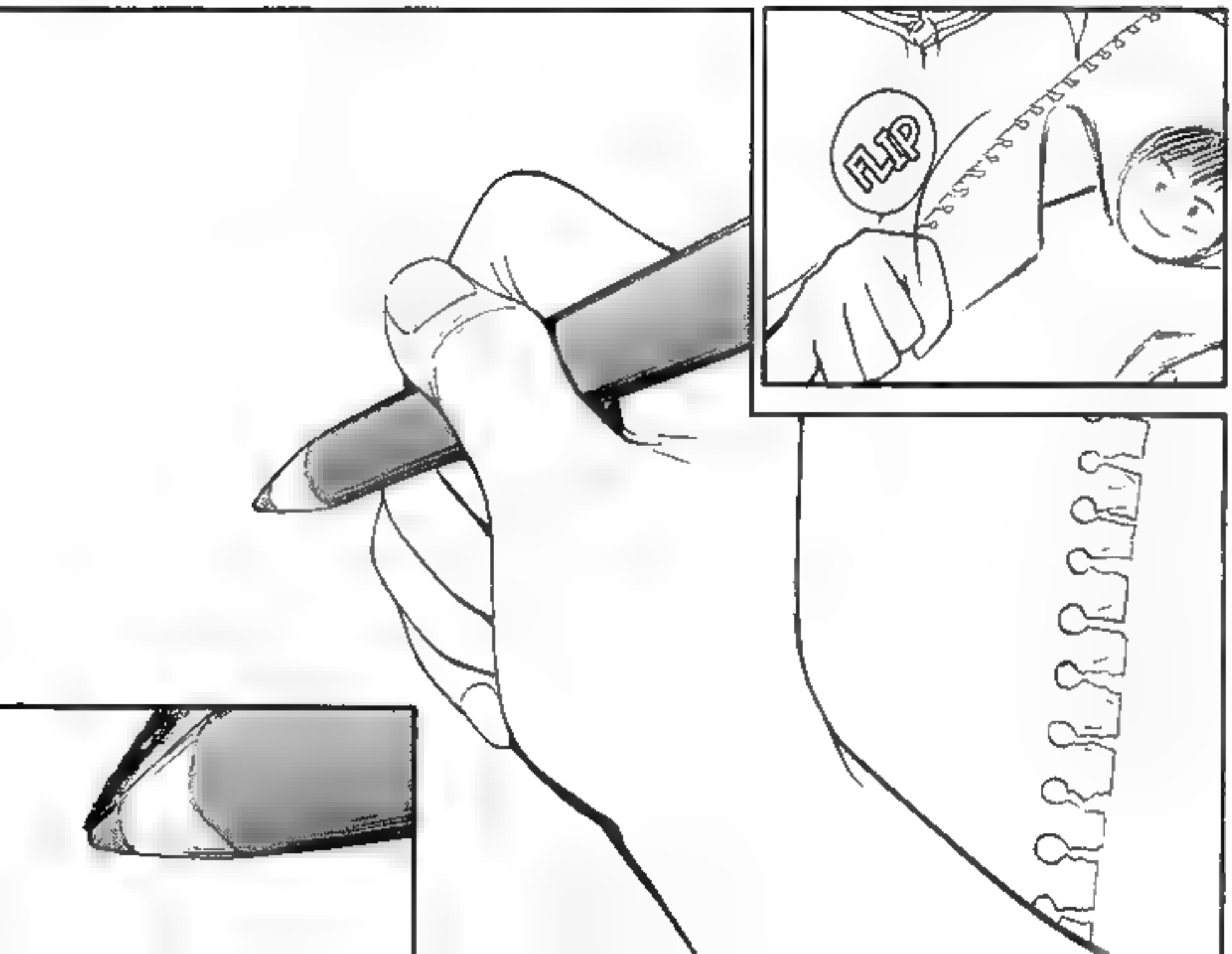


IKURU DIDN'T THROW AI AWAY...

IKURU WAITED...

...FOR AI TO SMILE...

...ONE MORE TIME IN HER LIFE...



# TMLあい

Ikuru Ai

*THE ONE I LOVE...*

*IKURU AND AI LIVED HERE...*

*THERE WERE LOTS OF HAPPY EVENTS!*

EVEN IF THERE ARE BRIGHT PICTURES, THE DARK PICTURES STILL SADDEN ME...

IKURU AND AI HAD MANY SAD AND SORROWFUL MEMORIES AS WELL...

...BUT I WANT TO TREASURE THEM ALL...

IKURU-

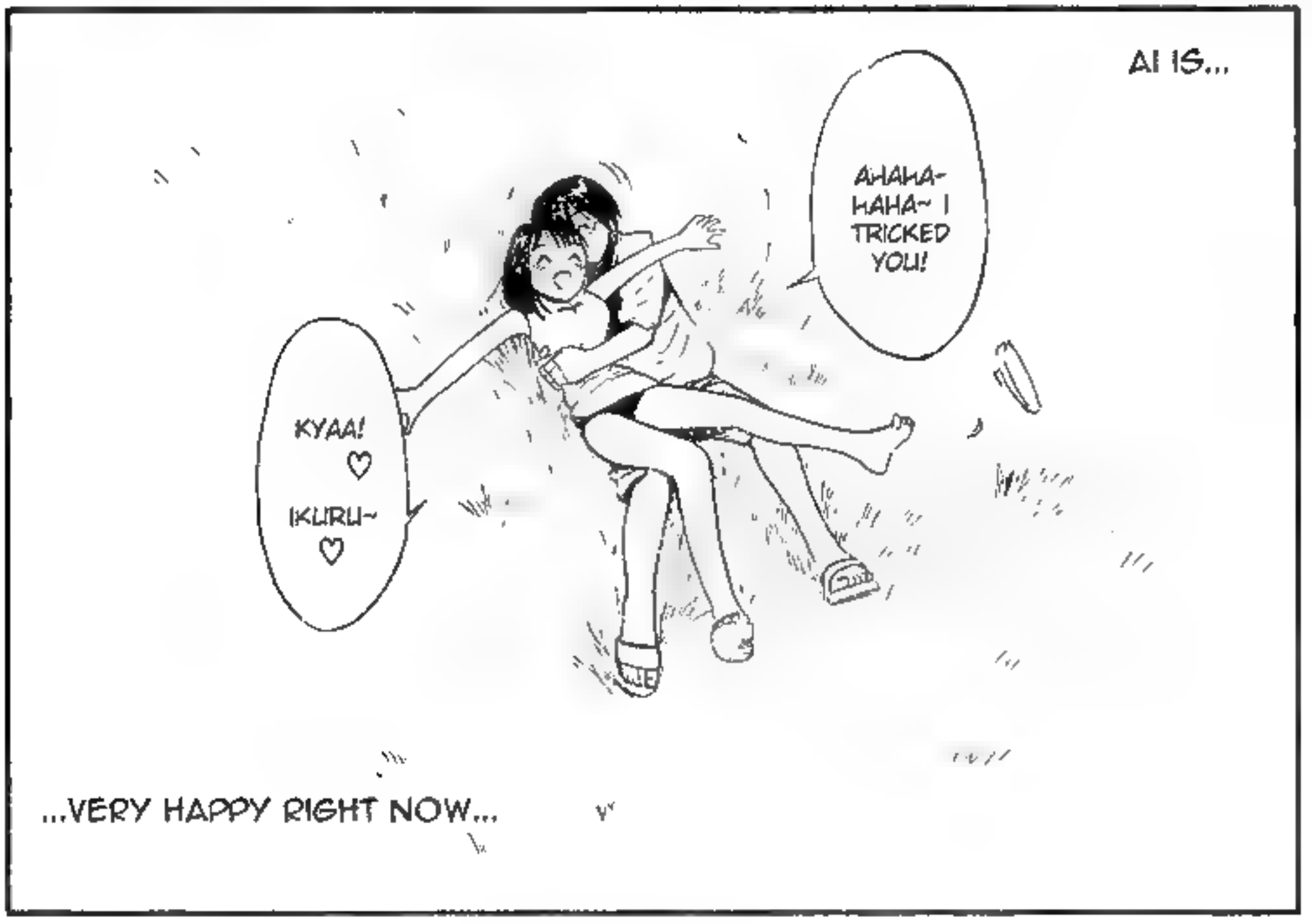
A~~I!

AI-!

COME HERE, QUICKLY!

?

IKURU?




...WITH THE ONE SHE LOVES...

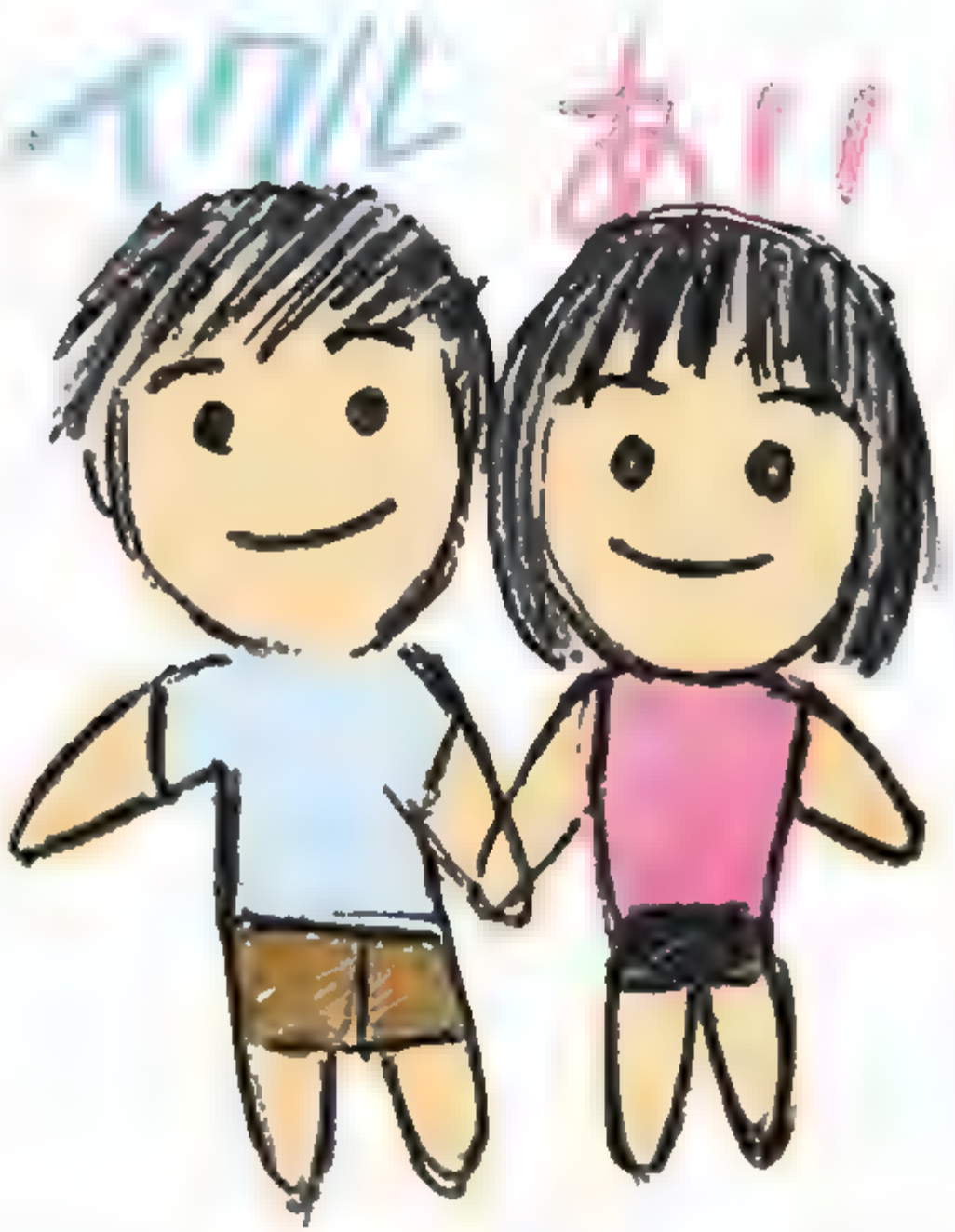
[ Chapter 24 / End ]

IT'S CHAPTERS LIKE THESE THAT MAKE ME WISH I HAD AN AI-REN LIKE AI. SO CUTE- IF YOU CAN'T TELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, BUT YES, MY EDITING WAS GETTING LAZY TOWARDS THE END THERE. THIS CHAP WAS LIKE "HMM, HOW MUCH TEXT ON ART CAN WE PUT IN ONE CHAPTER TO ANNOY ANY POTENTIAL EDITORS?" SO YEAH THAT AND IT'S 6AM, I'M JET-LAGGED TO HELL AND BACK AFTER FLYING ACROSS THE COUNTRY, GETTING IN TOWN AT 6AM, THEN HAVING CLASSES LATER THAT DAY

-POOKIE

BE-BE-BEEP! I'M SORRY, BUT YOU HAVE REACHED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER PLEASE CHECK THE NUMBER, AREA CODE AND CALL AGAIN" (VINNY TOSSES THE CELLPHONE INTO THE TRASH)

-BIGVINNY

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-=Ai-Ren v03 c24=-
Raws: USC Gamecocks
Translator: BigVinny
Editor: pOOkie

# 愛人 [AI-REN]

## Chapter 25 - Dreaming

IT WAS A DREAM THAT SMELLED LIKE BLOOD...

HAA....

THUMP

THUMP

HUUooo

HAA...

HAH...

HUFF

HAA

HA

THUMP

HAA...

AAH

THUMP

THUMP

stab stab stab stab stab

pssh

RUSTLE

.....

EH..?

FOR A MOMENT, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD JUST HAPPENED TO ME...

WAH-

SPRAY

BZZT

THE SPOTS WHERE THE SUN HIT FEEL HOT.

LET'S GO SWIMMING AT THE BEACH AGAIN!

YEAH!

IKURU.

BZZT

.....

BZZT

AHH, IT'S SO HOT AGAIN!

SPRAY

# 愛人(AI-REN)③

AH, SORRY.

WHAT IS IT?

!?

SQUISH

IKURU..

IKURU..

SQUEEZE

AI..?

IKURU-♡

BAAAAHH!!

SPLASH!

BLAST OFF!

SLIDE

KYA!

AI~

HIYA!

ACK!

AI~!

WAH!

WAAH!

I GOT IT!

NOOO~!

PFFFF

PFFFF

TIME FOR REVENGE!

KYAA

AHHHHH!

SUDDENLY, SOMETHING BURST FROM DEEP INSIDE ME.

WHAT IS THIS..?

I WANT TO EAT HER..!!

I WANT TO EAT AI LIKE THIS..!

AI

MM.!

HAPPINESS..!

barbaric,

violent...

overwhelming...

SHIVER

...GUSHING OUT...

...SOMETHING I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE...

I'M ALIVE...

...ALIVE..!

I... I CAN'T STOP SHAKING...

SHIVER

BZZT

HA.

BZZT

THUMP

HAA..

BZZT

THUMP

HA..

BZZT

THUMP

SHIVER

AH...

SHIVER

THUMP

...ALIVE!

HAAH...

I AM...

HUU ..

THUMP

BZZT

BZZT

IT WAS...
IT TOOK US BY SURPRISE...

BZZT

SEN-SEI!

GET PLENTY OF REST, AND YOU'LL BE BETTER IN NO TIME.

YES, I THINK SO.

AWW

IS IT A COLD AGAIN?

SLIDE

.....

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND IKURU WERE PLAYING WITH WATER.

ANYWAYS,

MM. !

COME ON, SPIT IT OUT!

!!

IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?

WHAT IS IT?

HMM?

BZZT

I SEE. JUST AS I THOUGHT.

BZZT

DON'T WORRY.

I'VE BEEN PREPARING MYSELF, MENTALLY.

BOTH Ai AND I.

IKURU..

BZZT

AI IS AN AI-REN...

SLIDE

IKURU..

I'M OKAY..

I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME SOON.

BZZT

IN A FEW DAYS, THE TWO OF YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR NORMAL LIVES.

BZZT

THIS TIME, SHE REALLY WILL GET BETTER..

THAT WON'T HAPPEN ANYTIME SOON..

BZZT

AFTER AT MOST 10 MONTHS...

IKURU!

...THEIR REGENERATED LIFE COMES TO AN END.

THESE LAST, PRECIOUS DAYS, WE TRIED TO SPEND EACH AND EVERY ONE WITHOUT REGRETS.

ONCE AI AND I FOUND OUT THE TRUTH.

WITHOUT REGRET.

AI-REN... ARTIFICIAL HUMANS CREATED TO COMFORT PATIENTS IN THEIR LAST MOMENTS...

THAT'S WHY...

IT WAS SUCH A HOT DAY...

AI BEGAN TO DIE...

I HAD A DREAM...

I BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR FROM MY HEAD AND MY BODY...
THEN SOMETHING DARK BEGAN TO GROW OUT WITH SUCH FORCE...

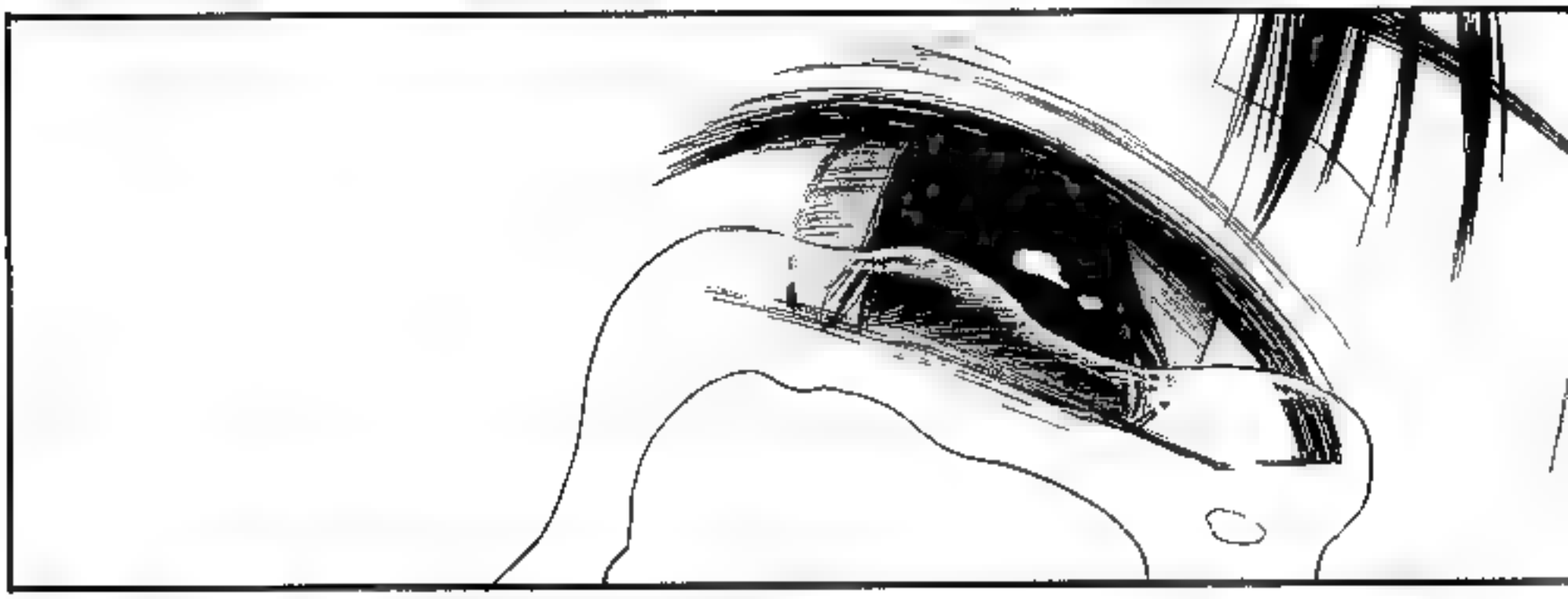
I... COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT...

AH...

THAT IS...

...ME...

THAT IS MY TRUE SELF...



...AND SOON, I WILL TAKE IKUEU'S LIFE.

[ Chapter 25 / End ]

# AI IS DEATH!

SO UM YEAH, THIS CHAPTER WAS SFX-ARIFFIC  TOOK SO MUCH EFFORT AND MOST OF YOU, NOT KNOWING WHAT THE RAWS LOOK LIKE, WON'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT  OH WELL.

-POOKIE

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, OUR BELOVED MAHORO-BOT DIED  THAT WAS THE MAIN REASON BEHIND THE DELAY OF CH 24 (YES, IT WAS DONE 10+ DAYS BEFORE OFFICIALLY RELEASED)  AT FIRST WE THOUGHT MAHORO WOULD BE BACK SOON, BUT THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY NOW.  MEANWHILE, I TOOK OVER TWO MORE PROJECTS FROM HERE AND THERE, BUT DON'T WORRY. AI-REN WILL ALWAYS BE MY PRIORITY.

- BIGVINNY

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-=Ai-Ren v03 c25=-

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Translator: BigVinny

Editor: pOOkie

# 26. Serenade of Love

WAS IT JUST A DREAM?
NOTHING MORE THAN A NIGHTMARE?

THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I'll...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SOON, I WILL... IKURU...

HONK
HONK

I BORROWED A CAR!

LET'S GO!

AI!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER RIDDEN IN A CAR, AI?

WAH-WAAH~

MM.

RUB RUB

ACTUALLY, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AS WELL.

HUH?

HEHE, ISN'T IT COOL?

WAAH~! A CAR!

IKURU!

DON'T WORRY, I DROVE IT HERE BY MYSELF JUST FINE.

BESIDES, MOST OF ITS FUNCTIONS ARE AUTOMATED.

THEN WHO'S GOING TO DRIVE?

WE DON'T KISS ANYMORE

BUT FROM THEN ON

PUT YOUR SEATBELT ON!

SOMEHOW, I JUST COULDN'T LET GO OF IT THAT EASILY...

AS HARUKA-SENSEI SAID, AI QUICKLY REGAINED HER HEALTH...

MM!

click

SO HOP IN!

WE'RE GONNA BE LATE IF WE DON'T HURRY!

GOOD!

LET'S GO!

click

CHECK!

!!

TTSSSs

WHIRRRRR

IT'S ALMOST FULLY AUTOMATED.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!

IKURU, ABOUT DRIVING.

SCREECH

AHH. I SCREWED UP.

IKURU!

WE'RE GONNA HIT THE HOUSE!

ACK!

WOW!

BRRRRR

MM...

I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT GOING OUT AT NIGHT!

THE TWO OF US ARE GOING TO A LITTLE CONCERT HALL TONIGHT

AI WAS VERY HAPPY...

AI'S SMILING FACE... AFTER SO LONG...

AH!

LOOK!

A BAND THAT AI REALLY LIKES, WHO ALMOST NEVER APPEARS ON STAGE, IS MAKING A RARE APPEARANCE ..

A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOUR RECOVERY!

...A BIT RELIEVED...

I WAS...

HUH?

THAT BAND PERFORMED TRADITIONAL MUSIC...

YEAH.

I'M SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE

IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

OTHER ARTIFICIALLY CREATED HUMANS, SINGING LOVE SONGS...?

AHH!

OVER THERE!

AN OUTDOOR CONCERT HALL, RESURRECTED FROM THE RUINS

IT USED TO BE A PLANETARIUM

THE PLACE WAS FILLED...

...DESPITE BEING SO LATE AT NIGHT...

SUCH AN ISOLATED PLACE...

OK!

LET'S SIT HERE?

THE STRANGEST PART WAS....

THE FACES OF THE CROWD... THEY WERE THERE NEITHER TO SIMPLY ENJOY THE MUSIC, NOR TO RELIEVE THEIR STRESS...

THEY LOOKED HOW SHOULD PUT IT...

ENTRANCED...

<SOUNDS OF MUSIC>

ジャジャオーチキ

パパパパ

ooooHH

BANG

BANG

THE MOMENT THE MUSIC STARTED, THE ENTIRE PLACE CAME ALIVE!

WE WERE ASTOUNDED!

ARTIFICIAL HUMANS, NO LONGER NEEDED BY ANYONE, ARE PLAYING...

A BOUNCY YET INTENSE RHYTHM

THE PERCUSSION WAS AMAZING

THE MAN ON THE STAGE HAD DEEPLY CARVED WRINKLES ON HIS CHEEKS...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

...A LOVE SONG.

LIFE..?

213

HERE SHE IS!

I'M THANKFUL THAT THERE'S MUSIC IN THIS WORLD, AND HONORED TO HAVE FRIENDS TO PLAY IT WITH, AND AN AUDIENCE TO PLAY FOR.

THANK YOU.

TONIGHT

A BEAUTIFUL SINGER,

WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER OF OUR BAND!

*THE SINGER WAS...*

*...ALSO AN AI-REN.*

AN AI-REN WHO HAD LOST HER REASON TO LIVE...

ACCORDING TO HER INTRODUCTION,

SHE WAS AN AGH-RMS WHOSE PATIENT HAD PASSED AWAY SOONER THAN THEY EXPECTED...

HER PARTNER WASN'T EVEN TEN YEARS OLD...

HAD ALREADY BEGUN

HER DEATH PROCESS

AND I COULD TELL...

IN A CLEAR VOICE, SHE BEGAN TO SING...

DING

THE SONG WAS ,
. A SONG ABOUT MISERY,

A SONG OLDER THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS THEY HAD PERFORMED THAT NIGHT..

A POOR, FOOLISH WOMAN, FALLEN INTO A VIOLENT AND PAINFUL LOVE.

SAD AND FOOLISH...
IT WAS AN AGONIZING LOVE..

BELIEVING THAT HE WAS HER ONE TRUE LOVE .

AND SO,

SHE, WHO HAD BECOME A SLAVE OF PASSION...

...IN THE END, KILLED HER LOVER.

BECOMING INSANE, SHE AWAITS HER DEATH IN PRISON

COUGHING BLOOD, SHE DREAMS

HAPPILY REMINESCING ABOUT THE DAYS

SPENT WITH THE MAN SHE KILLED

TIMES SHE MADE LOVE WITH HIM

WITH A MELODY THAT BROUGHT A STRANGE GRIN TO THE FACES OF THE AUDIENCE

OBSCENE, STRAIGHTFORWARD LYRICS

*Even to a Holy Angel, I can proudly say...*

*I am glad that I was born.*

*I am happy right now.*

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SONG

IT REALLY WAS

IT WAS A JOYOUS SONG.

*Even if the world comes to an end,*
*Even if you die... or I die...*
*It's not that big a deal...*

*...it's not that big a deal...*

WHIRRR

LET'S GO AGAIN SOME-TIME.

YEAH.

THE CONCERT WAS WONDERFUL

TAP

TAP

TAP

SURE.

TAP

TAP
TAP
TAP

AI, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE THE LAST TIME IKURU SMILED!

REALLY?

THAT'S NOT TRUE .

HM?

IKURU JUST SMILED!

AH! A SMILE!

TAP

TAP

IKURU SMILED~♡

WHA. WHAT IS IT?

AI, THAT TICKES!

IT'S DANGER-OUS!

RUB-RUB

IKURU. .

IT'S AMAZING,

LOOKS LIKE THE STARS ARE ABOUT TO FALL OFF

SKY IS STRETCHING SO FAR..

YEAH .

IKURU WILL DIE SOON
AI W LL DIE TOO

MM.

YOU SEE .?

YES?

IKURU,

AI HAD A SCARY DREAM. .

AI IS. REALLY

AI'S TRUE IDENTITIY IS DARK AND FRIGHTENING...
THAT'S WHY, ONE DAY, IKURU...

I'M SORRY. .

IT'S OKAY. .

IT DOESN'T MATTER. .

Even if the world comes to an end,
Even if you die, or I die,
It's not that big a deal.

AI. .

I LOVE YOU.

...it's not that big a deal.

ALIVE !

ALIVE

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

AHhood

<THUMP>

I love you.

# [AI-REN]

[ Ai-Ren, volume 3 / End ]

ORIGINALLY, I PLANNED TO TALK ABOUT THIS BEING THE LAST CHAPTER OF VOL.3, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT HOW INSANELY DIFFICULT THIS CHAPTER WAS IN THE END. PICTURE YOURSELF TRANSLATING SOME POEM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE... THEN PICTURE ME PULLING MY HAIR OUT (X12) WHILE WORKING ON THIS CHAPTER. I REALLY COULD'VE USE SOME HELP ON THIS CHAPTER, BUT IN THE END, I'M JUST GLAD THAT THIS IS DONE AND OVER WITH.

-BIGVINNY

SO YEAH, AS I'M SURE U NOTICED, I DID A CRAPPY JOB OF EDITING OUT THE SFX IN THIS CHAP. LIKE THAT ONE PAGE NEAR THE END WITH THE THUMP THUMP THUMP, OR THE OTHER PAGE WITH ALL THE MUSIC SOUNDS. USUALLY I'D EDIT THOSE OUT (I'VE EDITED OUT WORSE BEFORE IN EARLIER CHAPTERS), BUT I HAVE 2 MIDTERMS 2 DAYS FROM NOW, SO THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT.

-POOKIE

# 愛人 [AI-REN]

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IT'S ALRIGHT, AI IS HERE...

AI IS STILL HERE...

Even if the world comes to an end,
Even if you die... or I die...
It's not that big a deal...

...it's not that big a deal.

# SIXES

**Nagi Haruka became man's last completion form by gene improvement.**


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Even if the world comes to an end,
Even if you die... or I die...
It's not that big a deal...

...it's not that big a deal.

愛人 [AI-REN]